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SALAR

DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

روزنامہ سالار بنگلور

Website: salarnews.in | www.magzter.com | 11 OCTOBER 2025 | SATURDAY | BENGALURU | 18 RABI' II, 1447 AH | Vol 4 | Issue No 277 | Pages: 8

WORDS of WISDOM

Let us also work collectively to create environments where conversations around mental health become more mainstream. My compliments to all those working in this field and helping others heal and find happiness

—Narendra Modi
Prime Minister on World Mental Health Day

India resets ties with Taliban, to open embassy in Kabul

Afghanistan to send diplomats to Delhi as Taliban FM visits India

NEW DELHI, 10 OCT

India has upgraded its technical mission in Kabul to the level of an embassy and announced a fresh wave of development projects in Afghanistan, marking a major shift in its engagement with the Taliban administration, though formal recognition remains off the table.

Jaishankar made the twin announcements during his wide-ranging talks with visiting Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi for the first time, signalling a new approach in New Delhi's ties with Kabul though it has not yet recognised the Taliban set-up that came to power in August 2021.

Muttaqi, on a six-day visit, said Afghanistan will not allow its territory to be used against India, identifying the Daesh (ISIS) terror group as a key regional threat.

The Afghan foreign minister also invited Indian companies to invest in the mining and mineral sector in his country, saying it would help strengthen the bilateral trade relations.

Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar during a meeting with his Afghani counterpart Amir Khan Muttaqi **PHOTO: PTI**

India had withdrawn its diplomats after the Taliban takeover in August 2021 but sent a technical team back in June 2022. Hours after the mission upgrade, Muttaqi said Kabul will also send diplomats to India in a step-by-step process.

India committed to restarting development projects, including six new initiatives, a 30-bed hospital in Bagrami, oncology and trauma centres in Kabul, and five maternity clinics across Paktika, Khost, and Paktia. Ongoing work includes a thalassemia centre and diagnostics hub at Kabul's Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health.

> **India is fully committed to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Afghanistan**
> -S Jaishankar, EAM, to Afghani counterpart Amir Khan Muttaqi

India also gifted 20 ambulances, five of which were symbolically handed over to Muttaqi. Jaishankar said India would assist in constructing homes for forcibly repatriated Afghan refugees.

Both sides welcomed the launch of the air freight corridor and additional flights to enhance trade. India also expressed willingness to explore mining opportunities, as invited by Muttaqi.

Afghanistan has made it clear that it will not allow any foreign military presence at Bagram base, Muttaqi said .

India joined the Taliban, Pakistan, China and Russia in rejecting United States President Donald Trump's demand to retake control of Afghanistan's Bagram airbase in a surprising move earlier this week. *—PTI*

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Stalled for nearly four decades, the Sawalkote project is among India's largest hydropower schemes in Chenab basin **PHOTO: PTI**

Centre clears hydropower project on Chenab amid IWT suspension

NEW DELHI, 10 OCT

The Centre has granted environmental clearance for the long-delayed 1,856-MW Sawalkote Hydroelectric Project on the Chenab river in Jammu and Kashmir, marking a strategic shift following India's suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) with Pakistan.

Stalled for nearly four decades, the Sawalkote project is among India's largest hydropower schemes in the Chenab basin. It is part of New Delhi's push to maximise use of its share of western river waters under the 1960 treaty, suspended after the April 2025 Pahalgam terror attack.

To be developed by NHPC Ltd at a cost of Rs 31,380 crore, the project will span Ramban, Reasi, and Udhampur districts. It features a 192.5-metre-high concrete dam and underground powerhouses, aiming to generate 7,534 million units annually. Once operational, it will be the largest hydropower project in the Union Territory.

The project affects 13 villages, displacing around 1,500 families. NHPC has proposed a comprehensive rehabilitation package. Public hearings held in 2016 raised concerns over compensation, forest loss, and river impacts.

The Expert Appraisal Committee found the proposal compliant and approved it with safeguards. *—PTI*

HP BJP Chief's brother arrested in rape case

SHIMLA, 10 OCT

Himachal Pradesh BJP Chief Rajiv Bindal's elder brother Ram Kumar Bindal, a practitioner of traditional medicine, was arrested on Friday for allegedly raping a 25-year-old woman on the pretext of a medical examination, police said. The BJP said the case was a "politically motivated mischievous act". Kumar, allegedly assaulted the woman on 7 October on the pretext of curing her sex related problems after which he touched her private parts without consent. He was later arrested from Solan, officials said *—PTI*

US denies new AMRAAMs missile supply to Pakistan

NEW DELHI, 10 OCT

The United States has clarified that reports claiming it will supply new Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAMs) to Pakistan are "false". The US Embassy in India stated that a recent contract amendment only covers sustainment and spare parts for the existing programme, and does not include the delivery of new missiles. The modification, announced by the Department of War on 30 September, pertains to an existing Foreign Military Sales agreement. The Embassy emphasised that the sustainment plan does not upgrade Pakistan's current aerial capabilities. The clarification follows Pakistani reports suggesting Islamabad was set to receive AIM-120 AMRAAM missiles, which the US has now denied. *—PTI*

UK PM secures 10,600 jobs, ends India trip

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer waves as he departs after a two-day visit to India **PHOTO: PTI**

LONDON, 10 OCT

Prime Minister Keir Starmer has announced that his visit to India has secured £3.6 billion in new investments across the AI and fintech sectors, creating 10,600 jobs across the UK.

Concluding his Mumbai visit on Thursday after talks with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Starmer said the investments demonstrate the benefits of the Comprehensive Trade and Economic Agreement (CETA) signed in July. He described the UK-India Free Trade Agreement as "ambitious", promising it would make trade "quicker, cheaper and easier".

Key announcements include:

- Graphcore (part of SoftBank Group), will invest £1 billion in a new AI engineering campus in Bengaluru, creating 500 high-skilled jobs in India's semiconductor sector.
- UK fintech Tide will invest ₹6,000 crore over five years from 2026, adding 800 roles in India next year.
- Revolut plans a £500 million investment.
- Paysecure aims to boost UK exports by £370 million over five years through its payments integration with Indian banks.

In the UK, 64 Indian projects worth £1.3 billion are expected to generate 6,900 jobs. A £350 million deal to supply UK-manufactured missiles to the Indian Army will create 700 jobs in Northern Ireland. Yash Raj Films' plan to shoot three Bollywood films in the UK is expected to create 3,000 jobs from early 2026. Both leaders backed early ratification of CETA and welcomed the reactivation of the Joint Economic and Trade Committee to drive future UK-India trade ties. *—PTI*

Israeli troops pull out of Gaza after 2 yrs

WADI GAZA, 10 OCT

A ceasefire between Israel and Hamas came into effect on Friday, hours after Israel's Cabinet approved a deal to halt fighting and exchange remaining hostages for Palestinian prisoners. The Israeli military confirmed the truce, prompting tens of thousands in Wadi Gaza to begin walking north.

Israeli Brig Gen Effie Defrin said troops had completed their withdrawal to new deployment lines by Friday afternoon. An Israeli security official, speaking anonymously, said Israel would maintain control over roughly 50 per ceent of Gaza.

While heavy shelling was reported earlier in the day, bombardments ceased following the midday announcement. At least 11 Palestinians died and another 49 were wounded, Gaza's Health Ministry said Friday.

While heavy shelling was reported earlier in the day, bombardments ceased following the midday announcement **PHOTO: PTI**

The ceasefire marks a significant step towards ending a devastating two-year war that has killed tens of thousands of Palestinians, destroyed much of Gaza, and destabilised the region.

The deal is part of a broader plan supported by US President Donald Trump, though key questions remain, particularly over whether Hamas will disarm and who will govern Gaza. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in a televised statement, said Hamas agreed to the deal "only when it felt the sword was on its neck" and reiterated that Gaza will be demilitarised. Senior Hamas official outlined the core elements of the deal: Israel's release of around 2,000 Palestinian prisoners, reopening of the Rafah crossing with Egypt, and increased humanitarian aid. All women and children in Israeli jails will be freed. *—Agencies*

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Emergency turbine deployment not due to technical or pilot's fault: AI

MUMBAI, 10 OCT

Air India on Friday said preliminary findings show the deployment of the Ram Air Turbine (RAT) on its Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner on 4 October was "neither due to a system fault nor pilot action."

The RAT, typically deployed during engine failure to power essential systems, was activated seconds before landing at Birmingham on flight AI117 from Amritsar. The airline confirmed all systems were normal, and the aircraft landed safely.

"Based on preliminary investigation, the RAT deployment was uncommanded and consistent with similar past occurrences reported by Boeing," Air India said. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has been informed, and a preliminary report has been submitted.

The aircraft was grounded for inspection and cleared to fly from Birmingham to Delhi on 5 October.

Pilots demand grounding of Dreamliners

The Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) has called for the grounding of all Boeing 787 aircraft operated by Air India, citing multiple technical issues. They pointed to the RAT incident and a 9 October diversion of flight AI154 (Vienna–Delhi) to Dubai due to major system failures, including autopilot and flight control. FIP also linked the problems to "poor serviceability" and alleged that newly hired engineers had replaced experienced staff from government-owned AIESL. *—PTI*

SC hints at relaxing ban on firecrackers in Delhi & NCR

NEW DELHI, 10 OCT

The Supreme Court on Friday observed that a complete ban on firecrackers in Delhi-NCR is "neither practical nor ideal", citing frequent violations and the need to balance environmental and livelihood concerns. The court reserved its order on pleas seeking permission to manufacture and sell "green" firecrackers in the region, days ahead of Deepavali.

A bench comprising Chief Justice BR Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran made the remarks while hearing submissions from Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre and NCR states. The bench questioned the effectiveness of the ban, in place since 2018, asking whether it had led to any measurable improvement in air quality. "Has the AQI improved or worsened since 2018?" the CJI asked. Mehta said that pollution levels had remained "more or less the same". The CJI noted that strict bans are often ignored, stating, "Extreme orders create problems." *—PTI*

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EC to roll out SIR in poll-bound states in phases

NEW DELHI, 10 OCT

The Election Commission (EC) is likely to begin the long-awaited special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in phases, starting with states where assembly elections are due in 2026, including Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

Over three months after announcing a nationwide SIR plan, the EC is yet to finalise a schedule, delaying the annual Special Summary Revision (SSR), normally completed by December. Unlike SSR, which updates voter rolls annually, SIR involves house-to-house verification and a complete rebuild of the rolls, typically done after delimitation or when lists are outdated.

Officials said SIR will not be held in states where local body polls are ongoing or imminent, to avoid overstretching election machinery. Some additional states may also be included in the first phase. Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar said a final decision is pending, but work is underway. *—PTI*

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TRUMP SNUBBED

Venezuela's Machado wins Nobel Peace

OSLO, 10 OCT

Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado has won the Nobel Peace Prize for her fight to restore democracy in Venezuela, earning praise as a woman "who keeps the flame of democracy burning amid a growing darkness."

Announcing the award, Norwegian Nobel Committee chair Jorgen Watne Frydnes called her a "key, unifying figure" in the opposition to President Nicolás Maduro. "Despite threats to her life, she remained in the country, inspiring millions," he said.

Machado, 58, was barred from running in the 2024 presidential election. Her replacement, Edmundo Gonzalez, later fled to Spain after an arrest warrant was issued. Machado went into hiding in January and has not appeared in public since.

Maria Corina Machado **PHOTO: PTI**

"This is something the Venezuelan people deserve," Machado said. "I'm humbled, grateful and honoured."

The crackdown on dissent intensified after the government declared Maduro the winner of a disputed election, sparking protests that left over 20 dead. Over 800 political prisoners remain jailed, including Gonzalez's son-in-law. The announcement came amid speculation about US President Donald Trump receiving the award.

Asked about political lobbying, Frydnes said the committee makes decisions solely based on Alfred Nobel's will: "This room is filled with courage and integrity." *—PTI*

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PHOTO: PTI

Deve Gowda stable after hospitalisation

BENGALURU, 10 OCT

Former prime minister HD Deve Gowda, 92, is stable after being hospitalised earlier this week. The JD(S) leader was admitted to Manipal Hospital, Old Airport Road, on 6 October for evaluation and treatment of fever and a urinary tract infection. A medical bulletin issued on Friday by Manipal Hospitals Chairman Dr H Sudarshan Ballal confirmed that Deve Gowda's condition has improved under specialist care. He is "currently stable and cheerful" and has been moved to a regular ward for observation. Despite his age, Deve Gowda remains politically active. His hospital stay was followed by a visit from Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji of Sri Adichunchanagiri Math. He had also addressed a press conference at the party office on 3 October. *—PTI*

Two killed in Mysuru bus-truck collision

MYSURU, 10 OCT

Two men were killed and twelve others injured in a collision between a private bus and a truck early on Friday in Mysuru district, Karnataka. The accident occurred at around 4.30am near Jadaganakoppalu in Hunsur taluk on the Mysuru-Madikeri road. The deceased were identified as the bus driver, Shamshad, and his cleaner, Dinesh. Police said the private bus, travelling towards Mysuru, collided head-on with a cement-laden truck coming from the opposite direction. The twelve injured passengers were admitted to various local hospitals for treatment. Authorities have registered a case, and an investigation into the circumstances of the crash is ongoing. *—PTI*

Paramedic dies by suicide in Mangaluru

MANGALURU, 10 OCT

A 26-year-old paramedic in Mangaluru allegedly died by suicide on Friday morning, leaving behind a note accusing four individuals of harassment and blackmail. The victim, Abhishek, who worked at a government hospital, was found at his home in Parpady, Nitte. In the note, he reportedly named Nireeksha, Rahul, Rakesh, and Taslim, alleging that they subjected him to severe mental and physical harassment over a private video, continuously demanding money and threatening his life. Preliminary police findings indicate that Abhishek was deeply distressed by these threats. Authorities have launched an investigation based on the note's contents. Officials said further legal action will depend on verifying the allegations of extortion and harassment. *—PTI*

Help is available. Please call Tele Manas at 14416, SAHAI at 080-25497777 for support

PWD engineer held for taking ₹3 lakh bribe

YADGIR, 10 OCT

Mahesh Rathod, an Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) in the Public Works Department (PWD), was arrested by Lokayukta police in Yadgir for allegedly accepting a Rs 3 lakh bribe. He was caught red-handed in Gajendragad while receiving the payment. The complainant, Sharanappa Sabanna, a Class-II contractor, had completed a Rs 34 lakh project six months ago and required Rathod's approval to clear the work bill. Rathod had reportedly demanded a total bribe of Rs 4.6 lakh to process the payment. Acting on the complaint, Lokayukta police set up a trap operation and arrested Rathod while he accepted the advance. *—Salar News*

CM bats for coordination in 1st GBA meet

DKS says corporation commissioners can spend up to Rs 3 cr, council can spend up to Rs 10 cr

COLOMBO, 14 OCT

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) held its first meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and GBA Commissioner Maheshwar Rao on Friday.

Siddaramaiah said that the GBA, which replaced the previous BBMP, will "provide essential infrastructure to Bengaluru's citizens, ensuring proper waste disposal, reducing traffic congestion, and maintaining well-functioning road and drainage systems".

With the BJP boycotting the event, Siddaramaiah asserted that formation of the GBA was not politically motivated and said that the Opposition missed a chance for "elected officials to voice their opinions freely".

"Those who oppose Bengaluru's development and decentralisation of power have boycotted this meeting," he said.

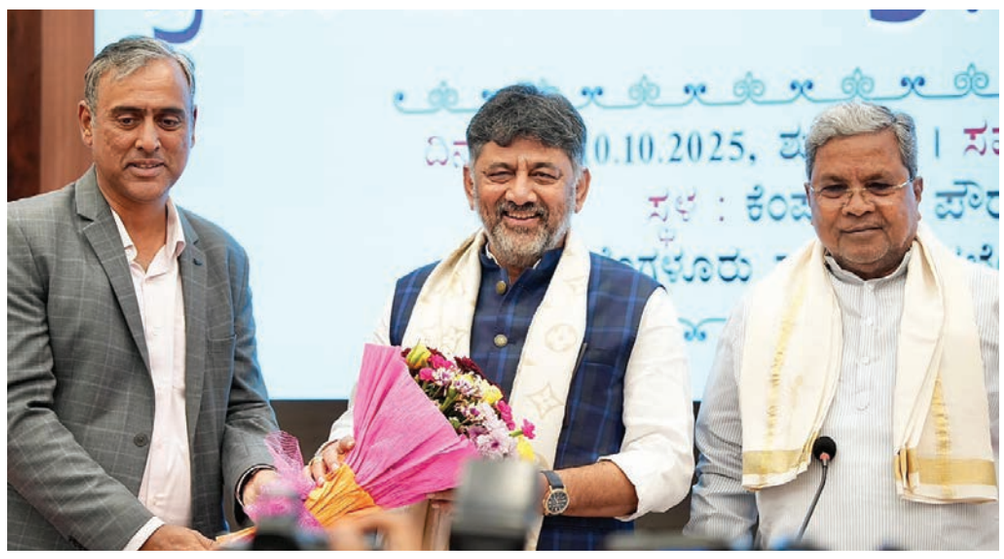
He added that offices will be constructed for the five new corporations.

"Coordination with the government is necessary for all these tasks. In the coming days, all relevant departments and organizations such as BDA, BWSSB, BESCOM, and BMRCL, which provide services to Bengaluru's citizens, will work in coordination with the GBA," he said. "All municipal commissioners must increase tax collection in their jurisdictions. They should prioritise waste disposal and cleanliness. Footpaths should be made as wide as possible."

BUDGET FINALISED

Shivakumar said that the budget for City corporations had been finalised.

"Previously, a corporation commissioner was allowed to spend up to Rs 1 crore; now, we have increased this limit to Rs 3 crores," he said. "Similarly, the council was restricted to spending within five crores, but we have now raised this limit to Rs 10 crores."



Chief GBA Commissioner Maheshwar Rao, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at the first GBA meeting at Kempegowda Civic Hall in City on Friday *PHOTO: SALAR*

Shivakumar said that GBA meetings will be held at least once every three months. GBA now has the prower to issue TDRs.

"We will also form a Central Coordination Committee," he said. "We have submitted a proposal for restructuring and formulating an action plan concerning several cooperative organisations."

ASHOKA UNIMPRESSED

Opposition Leader R Ashoka at a press conference termed the GBA as a "one man authority", owing to the CM being at the helm. *—Salar News*

Walk with DKS

DyCM DK Shivakumar will be walking in the City in morning and interacting with citizens:

11 Oct:	Lalbagh Park.
12 Oct:	JP Park (Mathikere).
18 Oct:	Vengaiah Park (KR Puram).
19 Oct:	Veera Yodhara Park (Koramangala).
25 Oct:	Gandhi Park (Nagarbhavi).
26 Oct:	Cubbon Park.

Timings:

7-8am:	Walk with citizens.
8-9am:	Interaction with citizens.
9-10am:	Inspecting public work.

HM meets senior ministers, downplays CM's dinner party

BENGALURU, 10 OCT

> **It was a casual meeting. There is nothing in it...We have held several such meetings. This is not the first time. Earlier we have had meetings at Satish Jarkiholi's house, Mahadevappa's house. This is not new.... Who said there will be a November revolution? I don't know**
> -G Parameshwara, Home Minister

Home Minister G Parameshwara played down the closed-door meeting between him, Social Welfare Minister HC Mahadevappa, and Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi saying that it was a "casual and a non-political" meeting. The meeting had created a buzz amid rumours about a Cabinet reshuffle and a change in Chief Minister.

"There is nothing. I don't know how you see it. We have met normally, this was not the first time. Several times we friends meet to discuss several issues. They are not political meetings," Parameshwara said. "It was a casual meeting. There is nothing in it...We have held several such meetings. This is not the first time. Earlier we have had meetings at Satish Jarkiholi's house, Mahadevappa's house. This is not new."

There was a cabinet meeting on Thursday and some subjects were sensitive, so we discussed over breakfast, he added.

Parameshwara also termed the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's banquet for his Cabinet colleagues scheduled for 13 October, as a "casual" meeting.

"There is no agenda other than food," he said.

Earlier, Siddaramaiah had also downplayed the meeting. "It's been a long time since I invited the ministers for a meal, so I've called them just for that. The dinner has no connection with the Cabinet reshuffle," he said. *—PTI*

Now, Vijayendra hints at govt changes after Bihar polls

BENGALURU, 10 OCT

> **For the Telangana elections and the Lok Sabha elections, thousands of crores, including funds from the Valmiki Corporation, were siphoned off. Now, who knows how much of Kannadigas' tax money will be looted for the Bihar elections?... Is there any better evidence (to call the) Congress government Rahul Gandhi's ATM Sarkara?**
> -R Ashoka, Opposition Leader

State BJP President BY Vijayendra on Friday said the political developments in Karnataka are expected to reach a logical conclusion after the Bihar assembly polls, echoing Congress MLA KN Rajanna's earlier assertion.

Vijayendra said recent developments indicate that "all is not well" within the Congress.

Speculations are rife about the change of guard and Cabinet reshuffle when the Congress government reaches the halfway mark of its five-year term in November, referred to by some as "November revolution".

"The reactions of Ministers and legislators of the ruling party, makes it clear that all is not well in the Congress party. After the Bihar polls, a lot of political developments that have already begun in the State, will meet its logical end. Those in the ruling party are themselves talking about it," Vijayendra said.

Asked if there are indications of political developments gaining momentum in November, he said, "ruling party members themselves are dropping hints. We have been saying it for six months. Whether there is a peril for the Chief Minister's chair, or will it be good luck for someone else, let's wait and watch."

Separately, Vijayendra said that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah would not have visited the flood affected districts had the BJP not gone first. *—PTI*

Bank manager found dead under strange circumstances

BENGALURU, 10 OCT

A 31-year-old bank manager was found dead under mysterious circumstances inside the washroom of a pub in City, police said on Friday. The deceased, identified as Megharaj, is survived by his wife and a six-month-old child. Cause of death is not yet identified. According to police, the incident occurred on Thursday night when Megharaj visited a pub in Rajarajeshwari Nagar with three friends for food and drinks. After dinner and payment of the bill, he reportedly felt nauseous and went to the washroom, while his friends stepped outside. When he did not return for a while, they went back to look for him but could not find him in the pub. They then alerted the management. *—PTI*

MYSURU MURDER ACCUSED SHOT AT BY COP

MYSURU, 10 OCT

A 31-year-old man, who reportedly raped and murdered a nine-year-old girl in Mysuru, was shot at by police and apprehended. The incident occurred on Thursday. The accused identified as Karthik. As per the police report, the girl was sleeping with her family in a temporary tent near the Dasara Exhibition Grounds. A senior officer stated, "We warned him to surrender, but he refused. He then attacked a personnel with a bottle, injuring him. Only then did we shoot him in the leg." He was hospitalised and will be produced in court after discharge. A POCSO case has been filed.

BJP MP Yaduveer Krishnadutta Chamaraja Wadiyar slammed the government, saying Mysuru is no longer safe. *—Salar News*

Court orders inspection of jail after Darshan's complaint

BENGALURU, 10 OCT

A court directed the Member Secretary of the Bengaluru City Legal Services Authority to visit the Parappana Agrahara central Prison, and verify the conditions in which actor Darshan is being held. Darshan, an accused in the Renukaswamy murder case has complained of being denied basic amenities.

The 57th Additional City Civil and Sessions Court which heard the case on Friday, has partially allowed an application filed by Darshan's legal team, which had sought a personal inspection of the prison.

The court's said that the official must ascertain whether the prison authorities have complied with earlier court directions and whether Darshan is receiving the facilities stipulated under the jail manual. The report is to be submitted by 18 Oct. *—PTI*

SIGN VOTE THEFT AWAY

AICC Secretary Mansoor Ali Khan takes part in a signature campaign against 'vote theft' at Kadugodi Metro Station in City on Friday *PHOTO: SALAR*

Others states should give menstrual leaves: Mahila Cong

NEW DELHI, 10 OCT

The women's wing of the Congress on Friday hailed the State government's decision to grant one paid leave per month to menstruating employees and said it resonates deeply with the party's continued efforts to promote women's health, dignity and economic independence.

The State Cabinet on Thursday approved one day of menstrual leave for women working in various sectors, including garments and IT industries.

In a statement, All India Mahila Congress President Alka Lamba said, "This landmark move reflects a sensitive and inclusive approach towards women's health and workplace equity. Menstrual health has long been an ignored aspect of gender-sensitive policy-making."

"We appeal to all other state governments and Chief Ministers across the country to adopt similar measures," she added. *—PTI*

FOR 12 ACRES OF LAND

Insurance scam: 4 held for killing Haveri man

HAVERI, 10 OCT

Rattihalli police in Haveri have arrested four men accused of allegedly murdering a 40-year-old farmer to seize his 12-acre farmland and claim insurance benefits after his death.

The incident took place on 27 September when the four accused — Raghavendra Malagondar, Siddanagouda Karegowdr, Praveen, and Malatesh — allegedly gave the victim, Basavaraj Puttannavar, alcohol and got him drunk.

They later made him sit on the road where they ran him over with a car at about 80 kmph to make it seem like an accident.

The victim died on the spot.

Basavaraj's body was found later that day, and a complaint was lodged by the victim's relative.

The accused got the victim drunk then and ran over him with a car to stage it as a road accident *PHOTO: AI*

The initial investigation claimed his death as a case of hit-and-run.

But as the investigators examined the evidence, they discovered the accident to be a staged murder.

"Our investigation proved it was a planned murder," Superintendent of Police Yashoda Ontigudi told reporters. She said the accused befriended Basavaraj and often supplied him with alcohol.

Police revealed that before the murder, the accused had taken the intoxicated victim to the sub-registrar's office, where they transferred portions of his land into their names. The accused later purchased an accident insurance policy under the victim's name and listed Malagondar's name as the nominee.

"Ironically, the policy that was meant to benefit them exposed their crime," said a police officer. *—Salar News*

State to launch ₹100 cr fund to identify top 50 AI firms

BENGALURU, 10 OCT

Information Technology Minister **Priyank Kharge** on Friday said the State will launch a Rs 100 crore fund to identify India's top 50 AI companies.

Speaking at Confederation of Indian Industry's two-day CII INNOVERGE 2025 event here held under the theme "Make in India, Developed India & Digital India," the minister highlighted State's leadership as a global innovation powerhouse.

"At the upcoming Bengaluru Tech Summit, we will unveil the Future Makers track to showcase 20,000 startups and launch a Rs 100 crore fund to identify India's top 50 AI companies. Karnataka today is not competing with other states; we are competing with ourselves to create global solutions through innovation, skills and political will," he said.

According to Kharge, what sets State apart is its 3P model of People, Policy and Participation, which ensures every stakeholder, from academia to entrepreneurs, has a voice in shaping growth.

"We are investing Rs 1,000 crore to build innovation clusters across Mangaluru, Mysuru, Hubballi-Dharwad and Belagavi, ensuring that the benefits of growth reach every region," he added. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Pappu Yadav charged with poll code violation

HAJIPUR, 10 OCT

An Independent MP from Purnea, Pappu Yadav, has been charged with violating the model code of conduct after being filmed distributing money to flood-affected people in Bihar's Vaishali district. The case was registered at Sahdei police station on Thursday night following a complaint by the district administration. Officials said the filing was based on CCTV footage and a statement provided by an election duty officer. The police are currently investigating the matter. The action comes ahead of the state assembly elections, scheduled for 6 and 11 November, with the model code of conduct in force until the electoral process concludes. Authorities have emphasised strict adherence to rules to ensure free and fair polling. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Missing soldiers' bodies found in J&K's Anantnag

SRINAGAR, 10 OCT

Security forces on Friday found the body of a soldier who had gone missing in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district earlier this week. The two soldiers of the Army's elite para unit, Lance Havildar Palash Ghosh and Lance Naik Sujay Ghosh, had gone missing during a combing operation at Kokernag. The operation was launched in the Ahlan Gadole area, following inputs that terrorists were hiding there, the officials said. While the body of one of the soldiers was found on 9 September, the other body was found on Friday. Both died due to hypothermia. *—PTI*

Kerala HC asks cops to register case in Sabarimala row

KOCHI, 10 OCT

The Kerala High Court has directed the state police to register a criminal case over the alleged misappropriation of 474.9g of gold from the side frames and lintels of the Sabarimala shrine. The court noted that the gold was handed to Unnikrishnan Potty for gold-plating, but records do not show it was entrusted to the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB). A Special Investigation Team (SIT), led by ADGP H Venkatesh, has been tasked with a thorough and impartial inquiry, with a report due in six weeks and updates to the court every two weeks. Union Minister Suresh Gopi suggested ongoing probes into certain film personalities may be diverting attention from the gold controversy. *—PTI*

Pune NDA cadet kills self, kin allege harassment

PUNE, 10 OCT

A first-year cadet of the National Defence Academy (NDA) was found hanging in his hostel room at the premier institute here on Friday with the police suspecting it to be a case of suicide while his family members alleged harassment by seniors drove him to take the extreme step. The NDA said a court of inquiry has been ordered into his death. Cadet Antriksh Kumar Singh's fellow coursemates saw him hanging in his room in the morning. His mother and grandmother had approached the institute to complain about the harassment. The authorities assured to take action. Antriksh's maternal uncle AP Singh, said he wanted to discontinue his education because of the abuse. *—PTI*

BJP, JD(U) finalises seats for Bihar polls

Filing of nominations for first phase begins; 2 RJD MLAs resign and will join BJP soon

PATNA, 9 OCT

The BJP and the Janata Dal (United) within the NDA have finalised the names of their probable candidates for the seats they plan to contest.

An intense tussle among various political parties and their allies continues over the seat sharing and distribution of tickets for the upcoming Assembly polls in Bihar.

The list of candidates was approved at the BJP election committee meeting held in Patna in Bihar on 9 October. The party's Central Parliamentary Board will take the final call on the candidates.

Union Minister Chirag Paswan's party, Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) demanded 40 seats from the BJP. Paswan's party appears to be showing signs of rebellion. Meanwhile, Jitan Ram Manjhi's party and Hindustani Awam Morcha has demanded 15 seats, further complicating matters.

The demands from the allied partners have made it difficult for the NDA to finalise a formula for seat distribution.

Ticket seekers demonstrate outside RJD Chief Lalu Prasad Yadav's residence ahead of the Bihar Assembly Election 2025 *PHOTO: PTI*

BJP senior leader and Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary said that there is no conflict over seat sharing and that NDA will soon make an official announcement.

Within the Grand Alliance (Mahagathbandhan), the CPI(ML), CPI, and Mukesh Sahani-led Vikassheel Insaan Party have demanded a larger share of seats.

The Congress Central Election Committee has finalised the names of candidates for the first phase of elections.

Meanwhile, two RJD MLAs, Sangeeta Kumari and Chetan Anand, resigned from Bihar Legislative Assembly. Both are likely to join the BJP.

The filing of nomination papers began on Friday for the elections to 121 seats in the first phase of the Bihar assembly polls on 6 November.

Candidates can file their nomination papers till 17 October. *—Agencies*

JMM wants 12 seats under INDIA

The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) is willing to contest at least 12 assembly seats in the upcoming Bihar polls as an ally of the INDIA bloc, a party leader said on Friday. The final decision on the number of seats where the party will field candidates will be made only after a meeting with the INDIA bloc partners, he said. *—PTI*

PK meets Pawan Singh's wife

Jyoti Singh, wife of Bhojpuri actor and BJP leader Pawan Singh, met Jan Suraaj founder Prashant Kishor on Friday amid speculation she might seek a Bihar Assembly ticket. Kishor dismissed the rumours, saying her visit was to discuss personal difficulties, including concerns about her safety and alleged injustice in her marriage. *—PTI*

Rajinder files nomination

Industrialist Rajinder Gupta filed his nomination for the Punjab Rajya Sabha bypoll, after being announced as the Aam Aadmi Party candidate. He was accompanied by Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann and AAP state chief Aman Arora. The bypoll fills the vacancy created by Sanjeev Arora's resignation after his state assembly election. *—PTI*

Cong vows action against mafias if INDIA bloc wins

PATNA, 10 OCT

The Congress on Friday said if the Opposition INDIA bloc wins the Bihar polls, "syndicate crime groups and mafias would be either in jail or in hell".

Addressing a press conference as part of the party's '20 Saal, 20 Sawal' campaign, Congress Rajya Sabha MP Akhilesh Prasad Singh said there are 12 kinds of organised crime groups operating in the state.

"These include the microfinance, sand, liquor, tender, recruitment, education, mining, supari, adulteration and transfer-posting mafia," he said.

"If INDIA bloc government is formed, we will have zero tolerance towards these syndicate crime groups," Singh asserted.

He said 1.09 crore women in the state are "caught in the grip of microfinance debt", with an average liability of Rs 30,000.

The MP asserted that if the coalition forms the comes to power, it will maintain a strict vigil, and conduct raids on "illegal supply of liquor." *—PTI*

Anganwadi workers to check burqa-clad voters

NEW DELHI, 10 OCT

The Election Commission (EC) has announced special arrangements to ensure the "dignified identification" of women voters observing burqa or purdah during the upcoming Bihar assembly elections.

The poll authority stated on Friday that these measures will allow identity verification in the presence of lady polling officers or attendants while strictly maintaining privacy and respecting voters' comfort.

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar confirmed that Anganwadi workers will be deployed at all polling booths in Bihar to assist with the identity verification of burqa-clad women. He emphasised that the Commission's clear guidelines for identification inside polling stations will be strictly adhered to, ensuring transparency while maintaining voters' dignity.

Up to 90,712 Anganwadi Sevikas are expected to be deployed on election duty to facilitate smooth polling. The decision follows a request from Bihar BJP President Dilip Jaiswal, who urged the EC to ensure that the faces of women voting in burqas are correctly matched with their voter cards.

Elections for Bihar's 243 assembly constituencies will be held in two phases, on 6 and 11 November, with counting scheduled for 14 November. These arrangements aim to encourage participation by purdanasheen women while upholding their privacy, comfort, and dignity during the voting process. *—PTI*

CEC said Aanganwadi workers will be present at all polling booths in Bihar to help verify the identity of burqa-clad voters *PHOTO: PTI*

Centre cites Pahalgam, seeks more time for statehood in J&K

NEW DELHI, 10 OCT

The Supreme Court on Friday gave the Centre four weeks to file its response on a batch of pleas seeking restoration of statehood to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, while the Centre required more time to evaluate the issue in view of the Pahalgam attacks.

The court heard multiple pleas, including those filed by academician Zahoor Ahmad Bhat and socio-political activist Ahmad Malik, pressing for the implementation of the Centre's assurance to restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir "at the earliest".

They referred to the Centre's assurance on statehood for the union territory during the hearings on the abrogation of Article 370. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, told the bench that elections in the region were conducted peacefully last year but the government required more time to evaluate the issue of restoring statehood in view of ongoing security concerns.

He said consultations were underway with the Jammu and Kashmir administration on the issue of restoration of statehood.

He alleged that some people are spreading a specific narrative and giving a grim picture of the union territory.

The counsel for Zahoor Bhat Sankaranarayanan argued that the Centre had assured the court about restoring statehood in 2023. He said that the matter be placed before a five-judge Constitution bench.

The counsel for MLA Irfan Hafiz Lone, argued that the continuing denial of statehood undermines the federal structure of the Constitution.

Another petiotioner submitted that citizens in the region were facing acute unemployment and stagnation in development projects. *—PTI*

SC questions HC for saying no to SIT in Karur probe

NEW DELHI, 10 OCT

The Supreme Court on Friday questioned the Madras High Court for constituting a special investigation team (SIT) to probe the Karur stampede in which 41 people were killed.

The top court wondered how the high court proceeded with the matter when the division bench in Madurai was considering it.

Gopal Subramanium, counsel for Tamil actor Vijay's political party Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam, submitted that the petition before the high court was filed only to frame a standard operating procedure for political rallies.

He said the high court constituted the SIT on the first day itself and made adverse remarks against the party and Vijay without hearing them.

The high court's observations that the TVK and Vijay abandoned the place were wrong. The police forced them to leave the place to prevent the situation from escalating.

The state government's counsel said the SIT was formed by the high court itself. The bench reserved its order after hearing the parties. *—PTI*

CM MEETS PM

Vijayan seeks ₹2,000 cr for Wayanad relief

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan meets Prime Minister Narendra Modi during in New Delhi on Friday *PHOTO: PTI*

NEW DELHI, 10 OCT

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Friday to discuss critical issues affecting the state, including an urgent appeal for the release of over Rs 2,220 crore for reconstruction efforts following last year's landslide in Wayanad.

"Many people died, and massive damage was caused due to the natural calamity in Wayanad last year," Vijayan stated, underscoring the need for immediate support from the central government. He also called for the swift approval of an All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Kinaloor in Kozhikode, highlighting that this has been a long-standing demand for the state.

Additionally, the chief minister sought an increase in the state's borrowing limits amid ongoing financial challenges. The meeting also aimed to address the long-standing differences between Kerala's Left Democratic Front and the BJP-led central government regarding funding for relief works.

Following the meeting, Vijayan shared a photo with the Prime Minister on his social media. *—PTI*

BJP accuses Didi of engineering riots over SIR in Bengal

NEW DELHI, 10 OCT

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has condemned West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for her recent remarks regarding the proposed Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Banerjee warned that if the Election Commission proceeds with the SIR, it could lead to "riots and violence" in the state.

The sharp rebuke followed Banerjee's attack on the Election Commission, claiming its officials were "threatening" her government's officers and acting under political influence prior to the announcement of forthcoming assembly poll dates. She accused the BJP of "playing with fire" concerning the SIR and cautioned that any tampering with the voter list would equate to a "betrayal of democracy." BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra described Banerjee's comments as "irresponsible," suggesting they imply she would "engineer riots and terrible consequences" if a constitutional process were initiated. He questioned whether Banerjee believes herself to be above the Constitution and capable of promoting violence for the benefit of "illegal Bangladeshi and Rohingya infiltrators." *—PTI*

FOR DATA CENTRES

Google to invest Rs 88,000 cr in Andhra

NELLORE, 10 OCT

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **N Chandrababu** Naidu on Friday announced that tech giant Google will invest Rs 88,000 crore over three years in data centres and Artificial Intelligence projects in Vizag.

Indicating that this would be the "single largest investment" since the introduction of financial reforms in independent India, the Chief Minister called it a "gamechanger".

Google subsidiary Raiden Infotech India Ltd will make this investment, developing three campuses across Tarluvada, Adavivaram, and Rambilli in Vizag.

Elaborating on major infrastructural projects in the region near Nellore district, the CM said two more ports – Ramayyapatnam and Dugarajapatnam – will complement the existing Krishnapatnam Port.

Google subsidiary Raiden Infotech India Ltd will make this investment, developing three campuses in Vizag *PHOTO: PTI*

Similarly, he said forthcoming airports at Dagadarthi and Chennai will enhance connectivity alongside Tirupati airport and noted that bullet train projects linking Hyderabad – Chennai and Chennai – Amaravati will further improve regional transportation.

Likewise, the TDP supremo noted that Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) will set up a refinery at Ramayyapatnam.

According to Naidu, India will emerge as the top country and economy in the world by 2047 and Andhra Pradesh as the top state in the country.

- Indicating that this would be the "single largest investment" since the introduction of financial reforms in independent India, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu called it a "gamechanger".

Further, he said the Telugu community will emerge as the number one community.

Earlier, the CM inaugurated a private school at Edagai village of Venkatachalam mandal in Nellore district.

Following the inauguration, the Chief Minister took a tour of the school and interacted with the students.

Later, he also inaugurated a project aimed at saving bulls and a bioethanol plan. *—PTI*

Chandigarh SIT to probe Haryana cop's suicide

CHANDIGARH, 10 OCT

The Chandigarh Police on Friday constituted a six-member special investigation team (SIT) to investigate the 'suicide' case of senior Haryana police officer **Y Puran Kumar** for "prompt, impartial and thorough investigation" in a time-bound manner.

The SIT, led by IG Chandigarh Pushpendra Kumar, will comprise Chandigarh SSP Kanwardeep Kaur, SP City K M Priyanka, DSP Charanjit Singh Virk and other officers Gurjit Kaur and Jaiveer Rana as members.

The SIT will investigate all aspects the case in a time-bound manner and preparation of final report upon completion.

Meanwhile, Kumar's bureaucrat wife, Amneet P Kumar wrote to the police questioning "incomplete information" in it, and asked for it to be amended "to accurately reflect the names of all accused".

The FIR lacks the necessary details required for a fair and transparent probe, she said.

Meanwhile, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes has sought an action taken report from the Haryana chief secretary within seven days on the matter. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

30 places in Chennai get bomb threats over email

CHENNAI, 10 OCT

About 30 email bomb threats have been reported in Chennai over the past month, including one targeting the PTI office on Friday, all of which turned out to be hoaxes, police said. The threat to the Kodambakkam office was sent via email. Investigation is underway to trace the sender, a senior officer said. Staff were evacuated, and the Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad found nothing suspicious.Preliminary checks revealed the emails originated from fake IDs. "We are tracing IP addresses to identify the sender," the official said. Similar threats were reported to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin's office, actor-politician Vijay's residence, BJP headquarters Kamalalayam, and Puthiya Thalaimurai TV.—*PTI*

9 MP cops loot Rs 1.45 cr hawala money, suspended

SEONI, 10 OCT

Nine policemen in Madhya Pradesh's Seoni district have been suspended for allegedly looting Rs 1.45 crore of hawala money being sent to Maharashtra, officials said on Friday. The incident came to light after the vehicle's driver and a businessman filed complaints, prompting a probe order.During a checking operation on Wednesday night, Bandol police station in-charge Arpit Bhairam and his team intercepted a four-wheeler carrying cash from Katni to Jalna. Instead of seizing the money, they allegedly assaulted the driver and took the cash.The Seoni SP said the team failed to inform senior officers. Following the complaint, nine personnel were suspended, and an inquiry is being conducted.—*PTI*

Delhi to give birth, caste certificates via WhatsApp

NEW DELHI, 10 OCT

The Delhi government is developing a 'Governance through WhatsApp' initiative to make several services faceless and easily accessible, officials said on Thursday.Around 50 services across departments, including applications for birth and caste certificates, will soon be available through WhatsApp, they said. A bilingual chatbot in Hindi and English, powered by artificial intelligence, will help users apply for documents, upload papers, and make payments.The Information Technology Department, which earlier handled doorstep delivery of government services, is preparing the project. A dashboard will also be created for real-time monitoring of applications. The system will be designed and deployed by a technology firm to be engaged by the government soon.—*PTI*

Liberian flagged ship MSC Elsa 3 declared wreck

KOCHI, 10 OCT

The MSC Elsa 3, which sank off the Kerala coast, has officially been declared a wreck following the successful removal of its bunker oil. Director General of Shipping Shyam Jagannathan confirmed the completion of the hot tapping operation, stating, "The entire hot tapping operation required to remove the bunker oil has been successfully completed." He noted that the risk of oil spills has been nullified, with over 300 metric tonnes of bunker oil safely removed. "Now two specific aspects are being addressed — the compensation claim and the removal of the wreck," he added. The Liberian-flagged vessel sank in the sea on 25 May while carrying 643 containers, including hazardous materials. —*PTI*

NCR urges SC to lift green cracker ban

Says Deepavali comes once a year, restrictions must not be imposed & let children celebrate

NEW DELHI, 10 OCT

Region states on Friday urged the Supreme Court that bursting of green firecrackers be allowed in Delhi-NCR urging a relaxation of the blanket ban in place since 2018.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre and NCR states, appealed for a "balanced approach" that safeguards both environmental concerns and the right to livelihood and celebration. "Let the children celebrate for two days. Festivals like Deepavali, Gurpurab, and Christmas come only once a year," he said, urging the court to lift time restrictions on firecracker use.

The bench, led by Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran, heard extensive arguments from multiple stakeholders, including firecracker manufacturers, environmentalists, and state representatives.

Mehta proposed allowing only National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) and Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation-certified green firecrackers, banning joint crackers or laris, and restricting sales to licensed traders. He also suggested banning online sales and mandating regular inspections of manufacturing units, with immediate sealing of violators.

NCR appealed for a 'balanced approach' that safeguards both environmental concerns and the right to livelihood and celebration PHOTO: PTI

The CJI questioned the selective application of the ban, asking, "Why should there be a ban in only a few districts? Shouldn't it apply to the whole state of Haryana?"

Senior advocate K Parameshwar, representing green cracker manufacturers, argued the ban was imposed without proper consultation and violated earlier SC rulings permitting green crackers. He said manufacturers had invested heavily in NEERI-compliant facilities and were being unfairly penalised despite compliance.

Another counsel highlighted that Delhi's pollution primarily stems from stubble burning and industrial emissions, not firecrackers.

Advocate J Sai Deepak emphasised that the firecracker industry is already tightly regulated and open to oversight.

On 26 September, the court had allowed certified manufacturers to produce green crackers but barred their sale in Delhi-NCR without permission. The NCR spans 16 districts across Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan. —*PTI*

SC bins plea to restore blocked WhatsApp acc

NEW DELHI, 10 OCT

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to hear a plea seeking national guidelines for social media platforms on account suspension and blocking. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta allowed the petitioners, whose WhatsApp accounts were blocked, to withdraw their plea and approach other legal forums. The court asked why they approached it directly, noting WhatsApp is not a state entity and suggesting they could file a civil suit. —*PTI*

TN ignored CAG warning on Coldrif?

NEW DELHI, 10 OCT

A report released by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in December 2024 had warned of significant gaps in drug inspections and testing in Tamil Nadu.

This report gains significance as the Coldrif cough syrup manufactured in Tamil Nadu have claimed the lives of 22 children so far.

The CAG's performance audit, which reviewed the state's public health infrastructure and management, pointed to consistent failures in meeting drug inspection targets.

In 2016-17, Tamil Nadu was supposed to conduct 1,00,800 drug inspections, but only 66,331 were completed. Three years later, the situation worsened.

Several deficits were reported in drug sample testing. In both 2018-19 and 2020-21, Tamil Nadu recorded a 54% shortfall in lifting drug samples for laboratory testing.

Tamil Nadu was supposed to conduct 1,00,800 drug inspections, but only 66,331 were completed PHOTO: ANI

The CAG's early warning were ignored at the time.

When Tamil Nadu's drug authorities tested samples of Coldrif, they found diethylene glycol levels as high as 46-48 per cent.

This substance, commonly used in the production of industrial products, can damage the kidneys, liver, and nervous system and cause child deaths.

Inspections at Sresan Pharmaceuticals' factory in Kancheepuram uncovered unbilled containers of DEG.

Coldrif deaths: SC rejects PIL seeking CBI probe

The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed a PIL seeking an inquiry and systemic reform in drug safety mechanisms in the wake of deaths of children in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan allegedly due to consumption of toxic Coldrif cough syrups.

The bench, which was initially of the view that the notice should be issued, later dismissed it. —*Agencies*

Leh bans 'fake news' on social media

LEH, 10 OCT

Leh district administration has invoked legal provisions to curb the spread of misinformation on social media following last month's violence.

Mobile internet was restored on 9 September after a two-week suspension triggered by clashes on 24 September, which left four dead and several injured.

District Magistrate Romil Singh Donk said the order will remain in force for two months, citing sufficient grounds to maintain peace and public order.

"It has been observed that certain individuals/groups are spreading rumours and misinformation through social media, likely to disturb law and order," the order noted.

Anyone creating, sharing, or forwarding fake news, messages, or rumours will face strict legal action under relevant laws.

Donk also directed social media group administrators to monitor content and immediately remove posts that are fake, misleading, or rumour-mongering to prevent further disturbances. —*PTI*

Singer Zubeen Garg's cousin and Assam DSP Sandipan Garg (centre), being produced at a court in Guwahati, Assam, on Wednesday PHOTO: PTI

Zubeen Garg's security officers arrested

GUWAHATI, 10 OCT

Two personal security officers (PSOs) assigned to Zubeen Garg have been arrested in connection with the esteemed singer's death in Singapore last month, an official confirmed on Friday. Nandeswar Bora and Paresh Baishya, who were part of Garg's security detail provided by the government, were suspended by the Assam Police on Tuesday following extensive questioning.

The officials revealed that suspicious financial transactions, amounting to several lakhs of rupees, were traced through their bank accounts. With these latest arrests, the total number of individuals detained in relation to Garg's death has risen to seven.

Earlier, several people were arrested, including North East India Festival organiser Shyamkanu Mahanta, Garg's cousin Sandipan Garg, his manager Siddhartha Sharma, musician Shekharjyoti Goswami, and singer Amritprava Mahanta. Zubeen Garg, a cultural icon, tragically drowned while swimming in Singapore on 19 September during the North East India Festival. —*PTI*

'In space, Earth is your identity; humanity matters not nationality'

PANAJI, 10 OCT

Indian Air Force Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, the first Indian to reach the International Space Station (ISS), said that when one leaves the planet, Earth becomes their identity, as nationality fades and humanity takes precedence.

Addressing CISCE students virtually from Goa, Shukla described seeing Earth from orbit as "too fascinating" and said it changes one's perspective: "From space, you realise how small and insignificant we truly are."

Recalling Rakesh Sharma's words, "Sare Jahan Se Accha," he said he now fully understands the emotion behind them.

Watching India from space was, he added, a deeply emotional experience.

Calling the space sector a powerful engine for national growth, Shukla said it would help realise 'Viksit Bharat 2047', with missions like Gaganyaan and the Bharatiya Antariksh Station.

Shukla flew to the ISS in August aboard the Axiom-4 mission, supported by ISRO and NASA. —*PTI*

Suniel Shetty moves HC on misuse of his photos

MUMBAI, 10 OCT

Actor Suniel Shetty has approached the Bombay High Court seeking protection of his personality rights amid unauthorised use of his photographs on social media.

In an interim application, Shetty requested the court order the immediate removal of his images from websites promoting businesses without his consent. Shetty's counsel, Birendra Saraf, pointed out fake images featuring the actor and his grandchild on certain sites. "The website of a real estate agency and a gambling site have displayed the actor's photo even though he is not associated with them," he said. Shetty claimed that unauthorised use of his images damages his reputation, stressing that such images are exploited for commercial gains without consent. The court has reserved its order.

HC bars misuse of Journoy's identity

Meanwhile, the Delhi High Court restrained YouTube channels and social media from using the name, image, likeness, or voice of senior journalist Sudhir Chaudhary. His petition cited circulation of misleading and AI-generated videos and false attribution of statements against him on social media. —*PTI*

IIIT student uses AI to make obscene images of 36 girls

RAIPUR, 10 OCT

A second-year student from Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) in Nava Raipur, Chhattisgarh, has been arrested for allegedly using Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to create inappropriate images of 36 female students. Sayyed Rahim Adnan Ali, 21, was apprehended in Bilaspur following a complaint from the institute's Registrar (in charge), Dr Srinivasa KG.

Additional Superintendent of Police, Vivek Shukla, stated, "The management reported that Ali, residing in the boys' hostel, had morphed photos of female students using AI image generation and editing tools." An internal inquiry led to Ali's suspension, with his laptop and mobile phone seized.

A formal complaint argues his actions caused social and psychological harm, damaging the institution's reputation. Shukla noted, "So far, there is no evidence the images were circulated online." Ali faces charges under Section 352 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. —*PTI*

Key accused in Raebareli lynching held, total now at 12

RAEBARELI, 10 OCT

The key accused in the lynching of Dalit man Hariom Valmiki on 2 October was arrested on Friday after being shot and injured in a police encounter, officials said. The total number of arrests in the case now stands at 12, with searches ongoing for 10–15 more suspects.

"Hariom Valmiki was on his way to his in-laws' home in Nai Basti, Unchahar, when villagers mistook him for a thief and beat him to death," police said.

"The key accused, Deepak Agrahari, fired at the pursuing SOG and police near Ganga Katri in Dalmau Kotwali. Police returned fire, injuring him in the leg," said Additional SP Sanjiv Kumar Sinha. He was taken to a local health centre. Five policemen, including two sub-inspectors, have been suspended for dereliction of duty. —*PTI*

WAS RETURNING HOME

Cops beat BTech student to death on road in Bhopal

- A video clip showed a policeman holding victim Udit Gaayke, while another is seen hitting him with a stick. Constables Santosh Bamaniya and Saurabh Arya have been suspended in this connection, and further action will follow after the post mortem report is received, Bhopal Zone 2 deputy commissioner of police (DCP) Vivek Singh said.

BHOPAL, 10 OCT

A 22-year-old BTech student died after being beaten allegedly by police personnel in the early hours of Friday in Madhya Pradesh capital Bhopal, officials said.

A video clip showed a policeman holding Udit Gaayke, while another is seen hitting him with a stick.

Constables Santosh Bamaniya and Saurabh Arya have been suspended in this connection, and further action will follow after the post mortem report is received, Bhopal Zone 2 deputy commissioner of police (DCP) Vivek Singh said.

Gaayke was rushed to hospital by his friends where the doctors declared him dead, he said.

His friends said they were partying in Indrapuri on the night of 9 September.

One of them was on his way to drop Gaayke at his home around 1:30am when the latter spotted police and started running into an alley, they added.

Both the policemen chased him down, and beat him, and he was later found with his shirt torn and with bruises all over his body, the friends said.

These friends claimed the policemen had sought Rs 10,000 when they were asked to stop the assault on the victim.

"Details will be clear after the post mortem report is received. Statements of family members are being recorded. The case is being probed by a City Superintendent of Police level officer," DCP Singh said.

Another official said the victim's parents work in Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh, while his brother-in-law is a deputy superintendent of police in Balaghat district. —*PTI*

A video clip showed a cop holding Udit Gaayke, while another is seen hitting him with a stick PHOTO: Screengrab

PAK SEES MORE PROTESTS

Supporters of Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan clash with police in Lahore during a pro-Palestinian march towards Islamabad. Authorities closed key roads and suspended internet in Islamabad and Rawalpindi ahead of the protest. Police in riot gear were deployed at major entry points ***PHOTO: PTI***

Taliban visit to New Delhi shows India's strategic pivot

While the ties between the Taliban regime and Pakistan continue to deteriorate, India is recalibrating its policy on Kabul — and the visit by the Taliban top diplomat Amir Khan Muttaqi could serve as a turning point.

India does not recognise the Taliban regime in Afghanistan — nevertheless, it is set to welcome the Taliban foreign minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi, for a week-long visit starting on Thursday.

The Taliban diplomat is due to meet India's External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar and discuss counterterrorism, trade relations, and New Delhi's humanitarian and developmental assistance to Afghanistan.

Muttaqi's trip, which was only made possible by the UN granting a temporary exemption to the travel ban imposed on him, is seen as a chance for New Delhi to shift its stance on the Taliban government without giving them formal recognition.

Muttaqi is also expected to urge India to allow the regime to post an official envoy to the Afghan embassy in New Delhi and seek permission to expand the staff of Afghan consulates in Mumbai and Hyderabad.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan Amir Khan Muttaqi addresses a press conference, in New Delhi, on Friday ***PHOTO: PTI***

INDIA'S CAREFUL DIPLOMATIC GAME

For over four years, New Delhi has walked a strategic tightrope of maintaining humanitarian contacts with Kabul while keeping diplomatic ties limited.

In June 2022, some 10 months after the Taliban takeover of Kabul, India sent a "technical team" to the Afghan capital to coordinate the delivery of humanitarian assistance and to see how New Delhi could support the Afghan people. Ever since, the Taliban have been demanding approval for their own representative in Delhi.

In November last year, senior Indian Foreign Ministry official JP Singh held multiple meetings with Taliban representatives, including a notable meeting with acting Taliban Defense Minister Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob.

The biggest signals of New Delhi's engagement, however, came when senior diplomat Vikram Misri met Taliban Foreign Minister Muttaqi in Dubai in January.

This gradual thaw in India–Taliban relations also seems to coincide with the souring of ties between Pakistan and the Islamic fundamentalist group. Islamabad has been increasingly angry with the Taliban regime over cross-border terrorism, among other issues, and has even launched airstrikes on Afghan territory.

INDIA BACKS PAKISTAN, CHINA

By engaging a major regional power like India, the Taliban seek to expand their diplomatic footprint beyond Pakistan and China, said Gautam Mukhopadhaya, a former Indian ambassador to Afghanistan.

"This outreach is partly aimed at challenging Islamabad's claim of indispensability in Afghan affairs, with Taliban 2.0 showing more independence from Pakistan, leveraging traditional people-to-people ties, especially among Pashtuns, and shared security concerns to position itself as a trusted partner," he told DW.

"This is also a step in projecting itself as an internationally relevant actor, especially amid attention from the US, China, and Russia," Mukhopadhaya added.

On the Indian side, it is worth noting that New Delhi joined Islamabad, Beijing, and Moscow to support the Taliban and reject US President Donald Trump's call for a US military presence at Afghanistan's Bagram air base. In a joint statement this week, New Delhi decried foreign military deployments as "unacceptable" for regional stability.

The move is seen as a multi-layered diplomatic message to Washington. Space for India to ramp up influence in Afghanistan

Muttaqi's visit, too, "points to a union of interests of India and Afghanistan," said Shanthie Mariet D'Souza, an expert on Afghanistan affairs.

India now has a chance to re-establish a presence in Kabul by increasing developmental efforts, capacity building, technical assistance and providing visas for medical and education purposes.

TALIBAN SEEK DISTANCE FROM PAKISTAN

Beyond bilateral optics, the visit has implications for India's relations with key powers — notably the US, Russia, Iran, and China — all of whom maintain varying degrees of dialogue with the Taliban.

Harsh Pant, head of the Strategic Studies Programme at Observer Research Foundation (ORF), a New Delhi think tank, said the Taliban have been indicating that they do not want to antagonize India.

"In some ways, the cautious normalization we are seeing — gradual visits and engagement — reflects a certain sense of comfort now present in India about the Taliban governing Afghanistan, which was not there when they first came back to power," Pant told DW.

CHINA TRYING TO MEND TIES

Pant also believes that India will continue to engage with Afghanistan and the Taliban not only for humanitarian reasons, but also for strategic gain.

"This is to ensure the Afghanistan-Pakistan relationship does not revert to what it was in the 1980s," Pant said, referring to Pakistan's backing of the Islamist Mujahideen groups during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in the 1980s.

Pakistan also recognised and aided the Taliban regime after their emergence in the 1990s.

"Also, China's role, as China has tried to bring Afghanistan and Pakistan together, can be neutralised," he added.

Pant, who teaches at King's College in London, said both the Taliban and India are determined to "create a more robust engagement mechanism."

"They have reached out to several countries, and given India's role, especially now that the Taliban's relationship with Pakistan is adversarial, India is an important partner."- *—DW News*

SALAR ساڈا بنگلور

A sad ending for Trump's Nobel Peace Prize pursuit

President Donald Trump was passed over for the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday despite jockeying from his fellow Republicans, various world leaders and — most vocally — himself.

Opposition activist María Corina Machado of Venezuela was awarded the prize. The Norwegian Nobel Committee said it was honouring her "for her tireless work promoting democratic rights for the people of Venezuela and for her struggle to achieve a just and peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy."

Trump, who has long coveted the prestigious prize, has been outspoken about his desire for the honour during both of his presidential terms, particularly lately as he takes credit for ending conflicts around the world. He has expressed doubts that the Nobel committee would ever grant him the award.

"They'll have to do what they do. Whatever they do is fine. I know this: I didn't do it for that. I did it because I saved a lot of lives," Trump said on Thursday.

Although Trump received a number of nominations for the prize, many of them occurred after the 1 February deadline for the 2025 award, which fell just a week and a half into his first term. His name was, however, put forth in December by Republican Representative Claudia Tenney of New York, her office said in a statement, for his brokering of the Abraham Accords, which normalised relations between Israel and several Arab states in 2020.

Nevertheless, Trump and his supporters are likely to view the decision to pass him over for the award as a deliberate affront to the US leader, particularly after the president's involvement in getting Israel and Hamas to initiate the first phase of ending their devastating two-year-old war.

The peace prize, first awarded in 1901, was created partly to encourage ongoing peace efforts. Alfred Nobel stipulated in his will that the prize should go to someone "who shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses."

Three sitting US presidents have won the Nobel Peace Prize: Theodore Roosevelt in 1906, Woodrow Wilson in 1919 and Barack Obama in 2009. Jimmy Carter won the prize in 2002, a full two decades after leaving office. Former Vice President Al Gore received the prize in 2007.

US President Donald Trump had claimed that he has ended seven wars since January 2025 ***PHOTO: X***

Obama, who was a focus of Trump's attacks well before the Republican was elected, won the prize early in his tenure as president.

"He got the prize for doing nothing," Trump said of Obama on Thursday. "They gave it to Obama for doing absolutely nothing but destroying our country."

As one of his reasons for deserving the award, Trump often says he has ended seven wars, though some of the conflicts the president claims to have resolved were merely tensions, and his role in easing them is disputed. But while there is hope for the end of Israel and Hamas' war, much remains uncertain about the aspects of the broader ceasefire plan, including whether and how Hamas will disarm and who will govern Gaza.

Trump invited Russian President Vladimir Putin to Alaska in August — but not Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy — for a summit aimed at reaching peace, but he left empty-handed, and the war started by Russia's invasion in 2022 has since raged on.

As Trump pushes for peaceful resolutions to conflicts abroad, the country he governs remains deeply divided and politically fraught. Trump has kicked off what he hopes to be the largest deportation program in American history to remove immigrants in the US illegally. He is using the levers of government, including the Justice Department, to go after his perceived political enemies. He has sent the military into US cities over local opposition to stop crime and crack down on immigration enforcement.

He withdrew the US from the landmark Paris climate agreement, dealing a blow to worldwide efforts to combat global warming. He touched off global trade wars with his on-again, off-again tariffs, which he wields as a threat to bend other countries and companies to his will. He asserted presidential war powers by declaring cartels to be unlawful combatants and launching lethal strikes on boats in the Caribbean that he alleged were carrying drugs. Trump's detractors say supporters, foreign leaders and others are submitting Trump's name for nomination for the prize — and, specifically, announcing it publicly — not because he deserves it but because they see it as a way to manipulate him and stay in his good graces.

Others who formally submitted a nomination for Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize — but after this year's deadline — include Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet and Pakistan's government, all citing his work in helping end conflicts in their regions. *—PTI*

LETTERS write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

Many doubt whether Tony Blair can succeed in ending Gaza war

A US peace plan has propelled former British Prime Minister Tony Blair to the forefront of efforts to end the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

While his legacy in the Middle East is controversial, especially given his role in taking the UK to war as part of the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq, there is one place he is revered as a hero: Kosovo.

As prime minister, Blair — along with then US president Bill Clinton — played a pivotal role in putting together an international coalition that conducted airstrikes in 1999 to end Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic's crackdown on independence-seeking ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

Blair's popularity in Kosovo soared in the aftermath of the war, even leading to the emergence of a new name for boys: Tonibler, the phonetic spelling of Tony Blair's name in Albanian.

Tonibler Gashi, a 24-year-old medical student in Pristina, said he is proud of his name.

"My parents wanted to symbolise the state of gratitude and respect towards the great man who, without him … we wouldn't be here talking Albanian in Kosovo," he said.

But whether Blair's success in Kosovo can be replicated in Gaza's vastly more complex and volatile environment remains deeply contested.

THE GAZA CEASEFIRE PLAN

US President Donald Trump's plan for Gaza would see Blair potentially leading a transitional international authority, the "Board of Peace," that would be chaired by Trump himself and would govern the Palestinian territory. The proposed body would combine international expertise, technocrats, UN officials and Palestinian representatives, and would function under a UN mandate.

It aims to oversee reconstruction, security, humanitarian relief, and the groundwork for more permanent governance structures.

Criticism from Palestinians, Arab states, and international legal scholars focuses on Blair's controversial past, especially his backing of the Iraq War.

They have also voiced concerns over sovereignty, citing fears that the transitional authority could sideline Palestinian agency.

In a breakthrough on Thursday, Israel and Hamas agreed to a pause in their devastating two-year war and the release of the remaining hostages in exchange for Palestinian prisoners.

Some in Kosovo express admiration for Tony Blair's work in the Balkan country and cautious optimism that his experience might serve Gaza well ***PHOTO: PTI***

Blair is no stranger to the Middle East. He spent eight years serving as the Mideast Quartet's envoy, working to promote peace between Israel and the Palestinians, before stepping down in 2015. His resignation was seen as a reflection of the dire state of peace efforts that further deteriorated under Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government.

A DEFINING MOMENT FOR KOSOVO IN 1998-99

In Kosovo, Blair and Clinton spearheaded a 78-day NATO airstrikes campaign that forced Milosevic to pull his troops out and cede control of what was then a province of Serbia to the United Nations and NATO. More than 13,000 people, mostly ethnic Albanians, died during the 1998-99 war.

Many Kosovars associate Blair with military intervention that stopped mass atrocities and see him as one of the strongest Western leaders advocating for political efforts for Kosovo's plight. He is also admired for his support of Kosovo's postwar reconstruction and institution-building.

A United Nations Mission in Kosovo, or UNMIK, first led by French diplomat Bernard Kouchner, governed Kosovo until 2008, when it declared independence. The United States and most of the West recognise Kosovo's independence, but not Serbia or its allies, Russia and China.

- As prime minister, Blair played a pivotal role in putting together an international coalition that conducted airstrikes in 1999 to end Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic's crackdown on independence-seeking ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

Some in Kosovo express admiration for Blair's work in the Balkan country and cautious optimism that his experience might serve Gaza well.

Bashkim Fazliu, of the We Remember Tony Blair Foundation, said that without Blair's leadership, "we would simply disappear, vanish from Kosovo."

The foundation was created in 2023 when Blair's statue was raised in the southern town of Ferizaj, 40kms south of the capital Pristina. A square in Ferizaj was also named Tony Blair.

Many streets, squares or busts have been named or raised for Clinton and then-Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, too.

"So, probably this is the last piece that he wants to solve in the world. And, I believe that he can, if he will have this opportunity," said Fazliu.

DIFFERENCES AND CHALLENGES

In both Kosovo and the proposed Gaza plan, there is a strong emphasis on international involvement in stopping atrocities, protecting civilians, rebuilding infrastructure, and laying foundations for lasting governance.

Blair is, nevertheless, a polarising figure in the Arab world. Scepticism is high about whether external leadership under him might be seen as paternalistic or as undermining Palestinian self-determination.

Vlora Citaku, a former diplomat representing Kosovo at the UN, considered Blair "the best-suited person" to help lead the postwar transition in Gaza.Veton Surroi, a Kosovar politician who was part of the 1999 peace talks that ended the war, said Blair's role in Gaza should resemble that of Kouchner's in Kosovo.

"I wish that Tony Blair had the same depth and the same commitment in Gaza as he has had in Kosovo," he said. *—PTI*

Circumcision increases chances of autism: RFK Jr

WASHINGTON, 10 OCT

US Health Secretary Robert Kennedy Jr. said that boys circumcised early and given Tylenol (paracetamol) are twice as likely to develop autism. Speaking at a cabinet meeting with President Donald Trump, he cited studies suggesting a link between circumcision, Tylenol use, and autism. Kennedy argued that opposition to his theory was politically driven and rooted in hostility toward Trump. His remarks referenced a 2015 Danish study noting higher autism rates among circumcised boys. Experts maintain the research shows only correlation, not causation. Kennedy and Trump previously warned pregnant women against Tylenol use, despite medical bodies affirming acetaminophen's safety during pregnancy and no proven link to autism. *—Agencies*

PHOTO: X

Peru's Congress removes Prez as crime wave rises

LIMA, 10 OCT

Peru's Congress has voted to remove President Dina Boluarte from office amid mounting public anger over a worsening crime wave. Lawmakers accused her government of failing to curb rising homicides and extortion, approving four impeachment motions that far exceeded the 56 votes required in the 130-member chamber. When Boluarte failed to appear before Congress late Thursday to defend herself, 124 lawmakers voted past midnight to oust her. The move followed a shooting at a concert in Lima that intensified outrage. Boluarte, who took office in December, 2022 after her predecessor's impeachment, had partly blamed the surge in violence on illegal immigration. Official data show record killings and a rise in extortion cases this year. *—PTI*

Sri Lankan President revamps Cabinet portfolios

COLOMBO, 10 OCT

Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake has carried out the first Cabinet reshuffle since his National People's Power (NPP) government took office a year ago. The Cabinet now has 23 members, including the President, remaining below the constitutional limit of 25. The most notable change saw Transport Minister Bimal Rathnayaka lose his Ports and Civil Aviation portfolios to Anura Karunatilaka, while Rathnayaka received Urban Development in return. Rathnayaka, also Leader of the House, has faced criticism after the Opposition complained to the anti-graft commission over alleged irregular cargo releases from Colombo Port in January. *—PTI*

S Korea indicts Unification Church leader for graft

SEOUL, 10 OCT

South Korean prosecutors have indicted Hak Ja Han, the 82-year-old leader of the Unification Church, on charges including bribery and violating political funding laws. Han, widow of church founder Sun Myung Moon, allegedly instructed officials to bribe former first lady Kim Keon Hee, wife of jailed ex-President Yoon Suk Yeol, and conservative lawmaker Kweon Seong-dong. Investigators claim luxury goods were given to Kim in July 2022 to seek business favours, and that Han ordered a payment of 100 million won ($70,000) to Kweon earlier that year. The alleged bribes aimed to secure future government support for the church's activities. Han, who remains in custody, and the church have denied wrongdoing, calling her indictment an insult to an "internationally respected religious leader." *—PTI*

All hostages will be home by Monday, says Trump

Israel Assembly invites him to address the Parliament

TEL AVIV, 10 OCT

US President Donald Trump on Friday claimed all Israeli hostages taken by Hamas will be home by Monday.

Under the terms of the agreement, all 48 remaining hostages in Gaza are expected to be released, possibly as early as Sunday night. Israel believes only around 20 of them are alive. All living hostages are to be freed at once, with the bodies of the deceased to follow.

In return, Israel will release approximately 2,000 Palestinian prisoners. A list published Friday did not include high-profile detainee Marwan Barghouti, viewed by many Palestinians as a unifying political figure. Israel has consistently refused to release him, citing his role in attacks that killed civilians.

Meanwhile, Trump has been invited to address the Israeli Knesset, where Speaker Amir Ohana called him "the greatest friend and ally of the Jewish people in modern history."

Israeli forces have pulled back to new positions within Gaza, though residents reported intensified shelling in areas like central Gaza's Nuseirat refugee camp and northern Gaza City early Friday. "The shelling has significantly increased today," said displaced resident Mahmoud Sharkawy

Israeli soldiers work on a tank near the Israeli-Gaza border following the announcement that Israel and Hamas have agreed to the first phase of a peace plan **PHOTO: PTI**

Residents of Gaza City in the north also reported shelling in the early hours. "It is confusing, we have been hearing shelling all night despite the ceasefire news," said Heba Garoun, who fled her home in eastern Gaza City to another neighbourhood after her house was destroyed.

200
US troops will be sent to Gaza to monitor the ceasefire deal

UN humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher said Thursday that over 1,70,000 metric tons of aid are ready for delivery into Gaza once clearance is given.

The US is also expected to lead a major internationally funded reconstruction effort.

Khalil al-Hayya, a senior Hamas official and lead negotiator, said in a speech Thursday evening that all women and children held in Israeli jails will be freed.

"We declare today that we have reached an agreement to end the war and the aggression against our people," al-Hayya said. *—Agencies*

'PEACE DEALS WILL CONTINUE'

Politics over peace: White House fumes at Trump's Nobel snub

WASHINGTON, 10 OCT

The White House said that the Norwegian Nobel Committee "proved they place politics over peace" after Venezuelan Maria Corina Machado won the Peace Prize over US President Donald Trump.

Trump campaigned aggressively for the Nobel Peace Prize, claiming to have stopped at least eight wars – the latest being Israel and Palestine – and receiving the backing of several leaders, including Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and even Russian President Vladimir Putin.

At the time of publishing, Trump had not commented on the issue. However, the White House Director of Communications said that "Trump will continue making peace deals, ending wars, and saving lives. He has the heart of a humanitarian, and there will never be anyone like him who can move mountains with the sheer force of his will."

Putin, meanwhile, said that the Nobel committee often awards the prize to those who did nothing for peace.

"The prestige of the prize has largely been lost," he said. However, noting that Trump's work in the Middle East was commendable, he remarked, "I don't know if he was worthy or not". *—Salar News*

Nat'l Guard set to patrol Memphis

National Guard troops were expected on Friday to begin patrolling in Memphis, a day after a federal judge in Illinois blocked the deployment of troops in Chicago area for at least two weeks.

Venezuela asks for UNSC meet over US

Venezuela's government on Thursday requested an emergency session of the United Nations Security Council focused on the US military strikes on civilian boats in the Caribbean sea, which has killed at least 21 people.

Blasts heard in Kabul; Taliban blames Pak

KABUL, 10 OCT

The Taliban government on Friday blamed Pakistan for striking the Afghan capital and bombing a market in the country's east, accusing its neighbor of violating national airspace.

The blast struck before 10pm local time in the area of Abdul Haq Square, close to several ministries and the national intelligence agency.

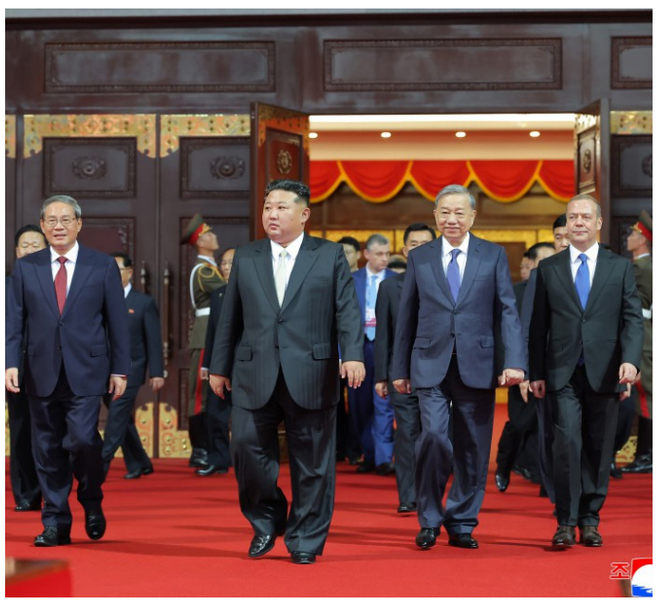
The Taliban government's chief spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said there were no reports of injuries or damage.

The blasts come shortly after Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said in his nation's Assembly that Islamabad's patience "had limits" after militants, allegedly from Afghanistan, killed 11 security personnel near the border. Pakistan said it killed 30 militants responsible on Friday.

"Enough is enough... Those who shelter or facilitate terrorists -- whether in Pakistan or Afghanistan -- will face consequences," he said. There was no immediate confirmation if Pakistan was behind the Kabul strikes.

The Taliban Defense Ministry blamed Pakistan for the "unprecedented, violent and heinous" strikes, but didn't explain how they were carried out. Pakistan has carried out strikes in Afghanistan. *—Agencies*

STANDING STRONG



Chinese Premier Li Qiang, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, Vietnamese Communist Party General Secretary To Lam, Russian Security Council Deputy Chairman Dmitry Medvedev during the 80th anniversary celebrations of North Korea's ruling party, in Pyongyang, North Korea, Friday **PHOTO: KCNA**

RUSSIAN STRIKES KILL BOY, WOUND 20 IN KYIV

KYIV, 10 OCT

Russian drone and missile strikes wounded at least 20 people in Kyiv early on Friday, damaging residential buildings, igniting fires, and causing widespread blackouts across large parts of Ukraine. In a separate attack in the southeastern Zaporizhzhia region, a seven-year-old boy was killed and his parents seriously injured as missiles and drones targeted homes and energy facilities.

In central Kyiv, emergency crews evacuated more than 20 residents from a 17-storey apartment block after explosions set upper floors ablaze. Five people were hospitalised, while several others received treatment for smoke inhalation and minor injuries. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the Russian attacks were aimed at destroying civilian and energy infrastructure as the country braces for the approaching winter.

Prime Minister Yuliia Svyrydenko described the assault as "one of the largest concentrated strikes" on Ukraine's power grid, while Mayor Vitali Klitschko confirmed citywide blackouts and extensive damage to thermal power plants.

Ukraine's air force reported that Russia launched 465 drones and 32 missiles, most of which were intercepted or electronically jammed, preventing even greater destruction. The repeated strikes underscore the ongoing threat to Ukraine's energy sector and public safety. *—PTI*

Emergency services personnel rush to extinguish a fire after a Russian attack in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Friday **PHOTO: PTI**

Japan's Komeito leaves ruling coalition; PM post uncertain

TOKYO, 10 OCT

- Sanae Takaichi could still become Japan's first female PM, but the departure of Komeito will compel the Liberal Democrats to find at least one coalition partner to stay in power.

The head of Japan's Komeito said it is leaving the ruling coalition headed by the Liberal Democratic Party due to concerns over corruption, in a major setback for the woman who hopes to become the country's next Prime Minister.

The decision announced Friday by Komeito leader Tetsuo Saito deals a serious blow to the Liberal Democrats, who last weekend chose Sanae Takaichi, an ultra-Conservative lawmaker, as its leader.

Takaichi could still become Japan's first female Prime Minister, but the departure of the Buddhist-backed Komeito will compel the Liberal Democrats to find at least one other coalition partner in order to stay in power.

She said Saito had "one-sidedly announced the decision to leave the coalition" even though she and her deputy, LDP Secretary General Shunichi Suzuki, had said the Liberal Democrats would discuss the issues he raised and respond promptly. "We've been together for 26 years and it was extremely disappointing."

The ruling coalition had already lost its majorities in both houses of Parliament. The lower house is due to vote on a new Prime Minister later this month.

Saito said his party had raised several concerns in a meeting with its leaders.

They include objections to Takaichi's stance about Japan's wartime history and her visits to Yasukuni Shrine, seen as a symbol of its past militarism. Another was Takaichi's hardline position toward foreigners.

But the deciding factor, he said, was the Liberal Democrats' response to scandals over the use of political slush funds. *—PTI*

TSUNAMI THREAT LOOMS

Seven die as two quakes jolt Philippines

MANILA, 10 OCT

Two powerful offshore earthquakes struck the same region in the southern Philippines hours apart on Friday.

The first one, a 7.4 magnitude quake in the morning, killed at least seven people, set off landslides, damaged hospitals and schools and prompted evacuations of coastal areas nearby because of a tsunami warning, which was later lifted.

The second one had a preliminary 6.9 magnitude. Philippine Institute of Seismology and Volcanology chief Teresito Bacolcol said that Friday night's earthquake that jolted Manay town in Davao Oriental province was caused by movement in the same fault line, the Philippine Trench, at a depth of 10kms.

It wasn't immediately clear if it was a separate earthquake or an aftershock of the 7.4 magnitude quake.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., facing his latest natural disaster after a recent deadly quake and back-to-back storms, said the potential damage was being assessed.

The first quake was centred at sea about 43kms east of Manay town in Davao Oriental province and was caused by movement in the Philippine Trench at a depth of 23kms.

"We've had earthquakes in the past, but this was the strongest," Jun Saavedra, a disaster mitigation officer of Governor Generoso said.

Several schools and hospitals were damaged. *—PTI*

A woman hugs a child as parents and children evacuate a school after an earthquake in Davao City, Philippines, on Friday **PHOTO: PTI**

Macron set to appoint new PM in last ditch effort

PARIS, 10 OCT

After a week of intense political turmoil, French President Emmanuel Macron is set to appoint a new Prime Minister on Friday in his latest bid to break the political deadlock that has gripped the country for more than a year, as France struggles with mounting economic challenges and ballooning debt.

The appointment is widely seen as the President's last chance to revive his second term, which runs until 2027. With no majority in the National Assembly to push through his agenda, Macron faces increasingly fierce criticism, even from within his own camp, and has little room to manoeuvre.

Outgoing Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu abruptly resigned on Monday, only hours after unveiling a new Cabinet.

Over the past year, Macron's successive minority governments have collapsed in quick succession, leaving the European Union's second-largest economy mired in political paralysis as France is faced with a debt crisis. At the end of the first quarter of 2025, France's public debt stood at 3.346 trillion euros (USD 3.9 trillion), or 114 per cent of gross domestic product. *—PTI*

Prosus to buy 10.1% stake in ixigo at Rs 1,296 cr

NEW DELHI, 10 OCT

Travel platform ixigo on Friday said it will raise Rs 1,296 crore from global investor Prosus through a preferential equity issue. In a regulatory filing, ixigo (Le Travenues Technology Ltd) said its board approved the issuance of 4.62 crore equity shares to Prosus's MIH Investments One BV at Rs 280 per share, representing a 10.1 per cent stake on a fully diluted basis. The price reflects a slight premium over ixigo's 10-day VWAP. The company plans to use the funds for organic and inorganic growth, working capital, and general corporate purposes. ixigo, which listed in June 2024 at Rs 93 per share, said the investment will strengthen its position in India's competitive travel-tech market. —*PTI*

Rupee rises by 10P, closes at 88.69 against USD

MUMBAI, 10 OCT

The rupee appreciated 10 paise to close at 88.69 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, on strength in the domestic markets and broad weakness in crude oil prices. Forex traders said the rupee gained on strong domestic markets and overnight decline in commodity prices. Intervention by the central bank also supported the domestic currency. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 88.80 and traded in the range of 88.50-88.80 before settling at 88.69 (provisional), 10 paise higher than its previous close. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.21 per cent lower at 99.32, as safe-haven demand for dollars continues keeping the dollar well bid. —*PTI*

Sona Comstar, NEURA to make humanoids robots

METZINGEN, 10 OCT

Sona BLW Precision Forgings Ltd (Sona Comstar), a leading mobility technology solutions provider, has signed an MoU with Germany's NEURA Robotics GmbH in Metzingen to jointly develop advanced automation technologies, components, and sub-assemblies for industrial and humanoid robots in India and other markets. "With rapid advances in AI and control systems, the world is entering a new era of intelligent automation," the company said. Sona Comstar's Group CEO Vivek Vikram Singh said the partnership will "drive the next wave of innovation in industrial and humanoid robotics," expanding its reach beyond the automotive sector. NEURA Robotics Founder David Reger said the collaboration "brings together two innovation leaders redefining mobility and intelligent robotics." —*ANI*

YouTube adds Nykaa, Purple as shopping affiliates

NEW DELHI, 10 OCT

YouTube on Friday announced the expansion of its Shopping Affiliate Programme in India, adding beauty and lifestyle platforms Nykaa and Purplle as new merchant partners. The move follows a 250 per cent year-on-year rise in shopping-related watch time. Creators can now tag and monetise products from Nykaa, Purplle, Flipkart, and Myntra in their videos. The platform is also introducing an AI-driven system to automatically display product tags when mentioned. Later this year, YouTube will test automatic tagging of all eligible products and allow creators to replace sponsored segments flexibly. YouTube said over 200 million logged-in Indian users made shopping-related searches last year and that it has paid Rs 21,000 crore to Indian creators over the past three years. —*PTI*

TCS to open AI hub, design studio in UK

TCS will create 5K new jobs across UK in 3 yrs

NEW DELHI, 10 OCT

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on Friday announced the launch of an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Experience Zone and Design Studio in London, and said its continued investments in the UK will create 5,000 new jobs across the country over the next three years.

Currently, TCS supports over 42,000 direct and indirect jobs across the UK. In FY2024, TCS contributed 3.3 billion pounds to the UK economy, according to a regulatory filing by the company.

"Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)... has today announced the launch of an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Experience Zone and Design Studio in London, reaffirming its continued strategic investment across the United Kingdom (UK), and upholding its long-standing partnership with the UK economy.

"Further, with its continued investment in creating employment and supporting talent development, TCS will create 5,000 new jobs across the UK over the next three years," it said.

Currently, TCS supports over 42,000 direct and indirect jobs across the United Kingdom PHOTO: PTI

The AI Experience Zone and London Design Studio represent a reimagined version of TCS's flagship PacePort facility and will play a key role in driving innovation and client collaboration across the UK.

The London studio marks TCS' second design hub after the New York Design Studio, launched in September, and will tap into the TCS innovation ecosystem that has been developed in partnership with academic institutions, start-ups, and other collaborators in the UK.

TCS Head for UK and Ireland, Vinay Singhvi, said the UK is TCS' second-largest market globally and the company will continue to scale its footprint across the country.

TCS' announcement comes soon after British Prime Minister Keir Starmer's first official visit to India this week, during which he held wide-ranging discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday. Starmer said India is poised to become the world's third-largest economy by 2028, and that the UK is well-positioned to partner in this growth journey. —*PTI*

AFTER RS 3,000 CRORE IPO

WeWork India shares drop 4% after muted debut

NEW DELHI, 10 OCT

Shares of WeWork India Management, a co-working space operator, made a flat debut on bourses on Friday.

The stock listed at Rs 650 per share, a premium of 0.31 per cent from the issue price on the NSE. Later, it traded 3.84 per cent lower at Rs 623.10 apiece.

On the BSE, the shares started trading at Rs 646.50, down by 0.23 per cent from the issue price.

After the listing of the shares, the company's market valuation stood at Rs 8,598.93 crore on the BSE.

The initial public offering (IPO) of WeWork India Management received 1.15 times subscription on the last day of bidding on Tuesday. Last week, WeWork India collected a little over Rs 1,348 crore from anchor investors.

The Rs 3,000 crore company's IPO has a price band of Rs 615-648 per share.

The public issue was entirely an offer for sale of up to 4.63 crore equity shares, saw promoter group entity Embassy Buildcon LLP and investor 1 Ariel Way Tenant Ltd (part of WeWork Global) divest their stakes.

In its draft papers, WeWork India stated that the objective of the offer is to achieve the benefits of listing its equity shares on the stock exchanges. The company expects the listing to enhance visibility, provide liquidity to existing shareholders, and establish a public market for its stock in India. Founded in 2017, WeWork India operates under an exclusive licence of the WeWork brand in India, promoted by Bengaluru-based real estate developer Embassy Group. —*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

- The public issue was entirely an offer for sale of up to 4.63 crore equity shares, saw promoter group entity Embassy Buildcon LLP and investor 1 Ariel Way Tenant Ltd divest their stakes.

Day 1: Canara HSBC Life IPO receives 9% subscription

The initial share sale of Canara HSBC Life Insurance was subscribed 9 per cent on the first day of bidding on Friday. The initial share sale received bids for 1,51,32,320 shares against 16,67,15,000 shares on offer, as per NSE data. The Rs 2,516-crore IPO will conclude on 14 Oct.

Canara Robeco AMC IPO 48% subscribed on day 2

The initial public offer of Canara Robeco Asset Management Company has been subscribed 48 per cent on the second day of the share sale on Friday. The IPO received bids for 1,68,61,824 shares against 3,48,98,051 shares on offer, as per NSE.

SC bins PIL for probe into Viceroy's Vedanta allegations

NEW DELHI, 10 OCT

The Supreme Court of India on Friday dismissed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking a probe into allegations of financial irregularities by US-based short-seller Viceroy Research LLC against Vedanta Group companies.

The bench, comprising Justices PS Narasimha and AS Chandurkar, allowed the petition to be withdrawn after the petitioner's counsel, Gopal Sankaranarayanan, opted to step back.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the government and regulatory bodies including SEBI and RBI, strongly opposed the PIL. He described Viceroy Research as a short-seller with "no credibility" and the petitioner, lawyer Shakti Bhatia, as merely a "name-lender".

Mehta warned that foreign agencies often release reports to destabilise Indian companies and markets, then amplify their effect through litigation.

Sankaranarayanan argued that the petition sought only that SEBI and RBI examine the claims and take necessary action, without endorsing Viceroy's allegations.

The bench cautioned that issuing notice and seeking counter-affidavits could result in dismissal with heavy costs, prompting the petitioner to withdraw.

The court also questioned the motive behind such foreign-driven filings, asking, "Why are companies outside India so concerned about how we conduct our affairs?" —*PTI*

Sunak joins Microsoft and AI firm Anthropic as paid adviser

LONDON, 10 OCT

Britain's former prime minister **Rishi Sunak** has been cleared by a UK government watchdog to take on part-time paid advisory roles with tech giant Microsoft and AI firm Anthropic, both based in US.

Sunak, who is now a backbench Conservative Party MP for Richmond and Northallerton, had approached the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments under the government's "Business Appointment Rules for Former Ministers".

The committee, which published its decision on Thursday, said Sunak should not draw on any "privileged information" available to him from his time in the prime ministerial office. He is also constrained from lobbying the government on behalf of either firms for at least two years.

"As the former prime minister, you will have been privy to a range of high-level sensitive information on more or less all government-related matters. Further, during your time in office, you had extensive industry engagement with companies and organisations within the AI and tech sector," reads the committee's advice.

Sunak told that all proceeds from his new roles will be donated to The Richmond Project, an education charity he founded with his wife, Akshata Murty, to tackle numeracy issues among children in UK.

"We stand on the edge of a technological revolution whose impacts will be as profound as those of the industrial revolution: and felt more quickly," he said. —*PTI*

Sensex rises 329 pts, Nifty climbs 103.55 pts

MUMBAI, 10 OCT

Rising for the second consecutive day, benchmark Sensex rose by nearly 329 points on Friday following strong gains in pharmaceutical and banking shares and foreign fund inflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 328.72 points or 0.40 per cent to close at 82,500.82 with 22 of its constituents closing higher and eight with losses. The index jumped by 482.01 points or 0.58 per cent to hit an intraday high of 82,654.11.

The 50-share NSE Nifty advanced by 103.55 points or 0.41 per cent to settle at 25,285.35. In the intraday session, it rose 148.95 points or 0.59 per cent to hit a high of 25,330.75.

Among the Sensex firms, State Bank of India was the biggest gainer, rising by 2.16 per cent. Realty, pharma, and banking shares led the advance, while metal and IT shares closed lower. As many as 2,474 stocks advanced while 1,706 declined and 163 remained unchanged on the BSE. —*PTI*

Equity MF inflows fall 9% to ₹30,421 cr

NEW DELHI, 10 OCT

In September, inflows into equity mutual funds dropped by 9 per cent to Rs 30,421 crore, as reported by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) on Friday. This decline marks the second consecutive month of reduced inflows; however, it is noteworthy that this still represents the 55th consecutive month of net inflows into the equity segment.

AMFI data revealed that equity-oriented mutual funds attracted Rs 30,421 crore in September, a significant decrease from Rs 33,430 crore in August and Rs 42,702 crore in July. Among the various equity fund categories, Flexi Cap Funds led with an inflow of Rs 7,029 crore, followed by Mid Cap Funds at Rs 5,085 crore and Small Cap Funds with Rs 4,363 crore. Large Cap Funds gathered Rs 2,319 crore.

Conversely, the debt category experienced substantial withdrawals totalling Rs 1.02 lakh crore, compared to Rs 7,980 crore in the previous month. Overall, the mutual fund industry faced an outflow of Rs 43,146 crore in September after an inflow of Rs 52,443 crore in August, with assets under management at Rs 75.61 lakh crore by the end of September. —*PTI*

SILVER SKYROCKETS, HITS NEW HIGH OF RS 1.71 LAKH/KG

NEW DELHI, 10 OCT

Silver prices saw the steepest single-day surge in the recent past and skyrocketed Rs 8,500 to hit a new record of Rs 1,71,500 per kilogram in the national capital on Friday, buoyed by persistent safe-haven inflows and severe supply constraints in global markets.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, silver closed at Rs 1,63,000 per kilogram on Thursday.

Silver prices soared by Rs 17,500 per kg in the past three consecutive sessions.

Meanwhile, gold prices retreated from their record highs.

Gold of 99.9 per cent and 99.5 per cent purity fell by Rs 600 each to Rs 1,26,000 and Rs 1,25,400 per 10g (inclusive of all taxes), respectively, on Friday. On Thursday, gold of both categories had closed at record levels of Rs 1,26,600 and Rs 1,26,000 per 10g.

Globally, spot gold rose $16.61, or 0.42 per cent, to $3,992.80 per ounce while spot silver climbed 1.52 per cent to $50.01 per ounce. —*PTI*

Google tightens policy reduces remote working

WASHINGTON, 10 OCT

Google is further restricting remote work as American tech companies impose stricter in-office mandates. The tech giant is revising its Covid-era 'Work from Anywhere' (WFA) policy, now classifying any WFA workday as a full week against the annual allocation of four allowed weeks. An internal document disclosed by CNBC reveals, "Whether you log 1 WFA day or 5 WFA days in a given standard work week, 1 WFA week will be deducted from your WFA weekly balance."

The updated WFA policy excludes certain staff required to be onsite and may lead to disciplinary action for violations. Despite the WFA changes, Google's hybrid schedule—allowing employees to work from home two days per week—remains unchanged.

As tech companies increasingly demand in-person collaboration, Google stated, "in-person collaboration is an important part of how we innovate and solve complex problems."

However, experts warn such changes may impact employee morale, with Kelsey Szamet noting it could lead to disengagement and increased turnover among those seeking flexible work. —*Agencies*

1ST LEGALLY BINDING PACT

Govt sets emission targets for polluting sectors

NEW DELHI, 10 OCT

The government has notified the Greenhouse Gases Emission Intensity Target Rules, 2025, setting India's first legally binding emission reduction targets for carbon-heavy industries.

The notification, issued by the environment ministry on 8 October, after considering all suggestions and objections received on the draft rules published on 16 April, requires 282 industrial units across the aluminium, cement, pulp and paper and chlor-alkali sectors to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions per unit of output (emission intensity) from the 2023-24 baseline levels.

According to the notification, each facility must reduce the amount of greenhouse gases emitted per unit of output (measured in tonnes of carbon

dioxide equivalent per tonne of product) compared to a 2023-24 baseline. The compliance period begins in 2025-26 and continues through 2026-27.

The move operationalises the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Act, 2022, which empowered the government to establish a domestic carbon market.

It also builds on India's Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) energy efficiency scheme which had earlier set energy-saving targets for industries but not direct carbon limits.

According to the rules, facilities that emit less than their assigned target can earn tradable carbon credit certificates, while those exceeding the target must purchase equivalent credits from the Indian carbon market or pay a penalty.

The penalty, termed "environmental compensation", will be twice the average trading price of carbon credits during that compliance year.

The average price will be determined by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency. —*PTI*

Top oil giants invest under 1.5% in renewables: Study

NEW DELHI, 10 OCT

A new study has found that the world's largest oil and gas producers are involved in under 1.5 per cent of global renewable energy projects.

Researchers from the Autonomous University of Barcelona analysed 250 major hydrocarbon producers, responsible for 88 per cent of the world's oil and gas output, examining their participation in 3,166 wind, solar, hydro, and geothermal projects.

Published in Nature Sustainability, the study revealed that these companies collectively own only about 1.42 per cent of operational renewable energy capacity.

Moreover, only a fifth of the firms analysed have any renewable projects, and renewable capacity represents a mere 0.1 per cent of their primary energy extraction.

Lead author Marcel Llavero-Pasquina described oil and gas companies' renewable deployment as "anecdotal at best," emphasising that their contribution to climate change mitigation should be measured by "how much fossil fuel they leave in the ground." —*PTI*

PHOTO: X/@PCB

Mohsin Naqvi locks Asia Cup trophy in Dubai office

LAHORE, 10 OCT

The Asia Cup trophy, which was not presented to the victorious Indian team after it refused to accept it from Asian Cricket Council chief Mohsin Naqvi, has been locked away at the ACC's Dubai headquarters with "instructions that it should not be moved or handed over" without the Chairman's approval. The Asia Cup trophy, which was not presented to the victorious Indian team after it refused to accept it from Asian Cricket Council chief Mohsin Naqvi, has been locked away at the ACC's Dubai headquarters with "instructions that it should not be moved or handed over" without the Chairman's approval. The trophy has been at the ACC office after Naqvi walked away with it from the presentation ceremony following the Indian team's refusal to accept it from him. India beat Pakistan in the Asia Cup final in Dubai on 28 September.—*PTI*

Swiatek stunned by Paolini at Wuhan Open

WUHAN, 10 OCT

Iga Swiatek was knocked out of the Wuhan Open on Friday in a straight-set defeat to Jasmine Paolini, a player the Wimbledon champion had never previously lost against.Paolini powered her way to a 6-1, 6-2 victory over the second-ranked Swiatek in a quarterfinal that was over in 65 minutes.It was the Italian's first victory over Swiatek in their seventh meeting, with Paolini having previously won only one set and secured her a semifinal spot against the third-ranked Coco Gauff."Finally, I won a match," the seventh-seeded Paolini said. "I'm super happy about my level. Just feels amazing."Paolini has a much better record against Gauff. —*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Aditi tied 31st as Katsu continues her strong form

SHANGHAI, 10 OCT

Indian golfer Aditi Ashok was placed tied 31st after the second round at the Buick LPGA Shanghai tournament here. Ashok has had a consistent first half of the week as she carded rounds of 2-under 70 on both the first and second days for 36 36-hole score of four under par. On the second day, Ashok started from the front nine once more and made her only bogey of the day on the sixth hole. Back-to-back birdies on the eighth and ninth holes to close the front nine and a late birdie on the 17th helped her post another card of 2-under 72.—*PTI*

Anmol enters maiden BWF Super 500 semifinals

FINLAND, 10 OCT

India's Anmol Kharb entered her maiden BWF Super 500 semifinals after beating Amalie Schulz in the women's singles quarterfinal at the Arctic Open 2025 tournament in Vantaa, Finland, on Friday. The Indian, currently 62nd in the women's singles BWF rankings, beat the Danish world No. 63 21-15, 21-14 in just 36 minutes to progress. Her deepest run in a BWF Tour tournament was a runner-up finish at the Guwahati Masters Super 100 last year. She will face either top seed Akane Yamaguchi of Japan or another Danish shuttler, eighth seed Mia Blichfeldt, for a place in the final.—*PTI*

Jaiswal's 173 powers India to 318 for 2

Jaiswal's brilliance is in not being too aggressive yet batting on 173: Batting coach Kotak

NEW DELHI, 10 OCT

Yashasvi Jaiswal drove with precision, cut with ferocity, and defended with doggedness to decimate a hapless West Indies attack with another 'Daddy Hundred' that took India to a commanding 318 for 2 on the opening day of the second Test here on Friday.

Jaiswal displayed all facets of his extraordinary talent en route to an unbeaten 173 off 253 balls. He had skipper Shubman Gill (20) for company when stumps were drawn for the day. The control with which he dictated the proceedings also gave enough confidence to another young batter, Sai Sudharsan (87), who looked good for his maiden Test hundred but fell 13 short.

In a stand of 193 for the second wicket between the two 23-year-olds, Sudharsan was able to show his true potential and also justify the Indian team management's decision to persist with him as the long-term number three in the Test line-up.With a languid approach, Sudharsan managed to caress the ball to the boundary without any use of brute force. A standout aspect of Jaiswal's innings was the manner in which he paced each of his 50s.

Sai Sudharsan *PHOTO: PTI*

Kotak *PHOTO: PTI*

Yashasvi Jaiswal's determination stood out for India's batting coach **Sitanshu Kotak**, who marveled at the youngster's ability to remain unbeaten on 173 despite not being overtly aggressive in his approach on the opening day of the second Test against West Indies. Jaiswal scored his runs in 262 balls with 22 boundaries and was in complete control throughout his innings. Asked what stood out for him, Kotak said: "The way he approached his innings was brilliant. According to the wicket, the way he adapted, the shots he decided on that wicket, what he felt with the bounce and the pace of the wicket, was brilliant."

I was looking forward to a lot more: says Sai Sudharsan

India No. 3 Sai Sudharsan on Friday admitted he was eyeing a big score against the West Indies after falling short of what would have been his maiden century in Test cricket during the first day's play in the second match here. Sudharsan, who was under some pressure after missing out in the first Test in Ahmedabad, where India routed the West Indies by an innings and 140 runs, struck a fine 87 for his highest knock in the format. Having made his Test debut during the England tour, Sudharsan had scored 61 in the first innings of the Manchester Test for his maiden fifty and remains in the hunt for a maiden triple-figure score."I am definitely grateful for whatever I've done today, but there's always a monkey in our mind that wants more, wants that hundred, and so I was looking forward to a lot more," Sudharsan, who made 87 off 165 balls with 12 fours, told the broadcaster after the match. —*PTI*

Yashasvi Jaiswal *PHOTO: PTI*

WOMEN'S ODI WORLD CUP

Confident England eye hat-trick of wins

COLOMBO, 10 OCT

England vs Sri Lanka
Match starts at
3.00 pm IST

Four-time champions England will look to extend their winning streak while hosts Sri Lanka will bank on familiarity with conditions to log their first win of the tournament when the two teams square off in a Women's ODI World Cup league match here on Saturday.

England are coming off back-to-back wins, a commanding victory over South Africa, followed by a nervy chase against Bangladesh.

Despite losing half their side for 78 while chasing 179, skipper Heather Knight's unbeaten 79 guided them home.

England's batting depth and experience once again proved decisive in their four-wicket win, though captain Nat Sciver-Brunt admitted that the side would have preferred to get the job done with fewer hiccups.

"We did what we had to do to get over the line. It could have looked a bit better, we would have liked to have done it a few less wickets down, but I suppose that's the way it went in the end," Sciver-Brunt had said. England's spin trio of Alice Capsey, Sophie Ecclestone, and Charlie Dean shared seven wickets against Bangladesh, while left-arm spinner Linsey Smith and seamer Lauren Bell also contributed effectively.

With a strong, all-round unit, England will start as overwhelming favorites against their Asian opponents.

The only area of concern remains the form of opener Tammy Beaumont, who has struggled to get going.

Her partner, Amy Jones, however, looked in good touch with an unbeaten 40 against South Africa, and the pair will be keen to provide a solid foundation.

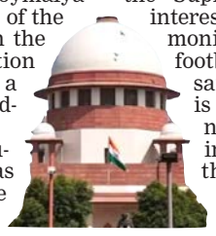
Sri Lanka, meanwhile, will hope to make the most of familiar conditions after their second match was washed out. —*PTI*

Not interested in controlling affairs of football: SC

NEW DELHI, 10 OCT

The Supreme Court on Friday said it is not interested in controlling or monitoring the affairs of Indian football as it sought to know the views of former apex court judge L Nageswara Rao on two contentious provisions in the draft constitution of the All India Football Federation (AIFF).

A bench of Justices P S Narasimha and A S Chandurkar said it will have a word with Justice Joymalya Bagchi, who was part of the bench that dealt with the AIFF's draft constitution on September 19 on a plea moved by the federation.



The draft constitution of the AIFF was prepared by Justice Rao and approved by the apex court.

"We have already said that the Supreme Court is not interested in controlling or monitoring the affairs of football. We have already said that our judgment is only in the interregnum till the Act comes into play. These small things could have been easily taken care of. Anyway, we will seek the views of Justice Rao and issue a clarification," the bench said.

Representing the AIFF in the matter, senior advocate Siddharth Luthra informed the bench that in compliance with the apex court's order, the federation is scheduled to hold a special general body meeting on Sunday, where the draft constitution is to be adopted. —*PTI*

Vinay wins gold at Para Powerlifting World C'ships

CAIRO, 10 OCT

India's rising para powerlifting star Vinay won the gold medal in the 72kg junior category at the Para Powerlifting World Championships here on Friday.

Vinay recorded an impressive series of 137kg, 142kg, and 147kg in his three attempts. His final lift of 147kg was ruled invalid by the referees, but his second successful lift of 142kg was enough to secure the gold medal, narrowly defeating Mikolaj Kociubinski of Poland, who lifted 141kg.

The bronze medal was claimed by Sebastian F. of Ecuador with 137Kg.

This marks Vinay's second major international triumph. Earlier, he clinched gold at the Para Powerlifting World Cup 2024 in Sharm-El-Sheik, Egypt, competing in the 59kg junior category with a lift of 120kg.

Hailing from Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, Vinay's journey is one of courage and determination. Born into a poor family his father works as a daily wager Vinay's life changed when J.P. Singh, coach of the Indian para powerlifting team, discovered his talent at a state-level meet.

Under Singh's mentorship, Vinay transformed his potential into world-class performance. —*PTI*

AHEAD OF AUSTRALIA TOUR

Rohit trains with Nayar in Mumbai

MUMBAI, 10 OCT

Rohit Sharma trained for nearly two hours along with his former Mumbai teammate Abhishek Nayar at Shivaji Park here on Friday ahead of the Australia tour.

Rohit, who was recently replaced by Shubman Gill as India's ODI captain, will be back in action during a three-match series against Australia starting on October 19 at Perth. Mumbai cricketer Angkrish Raghuvanshi and a few other local players were present at the training when Rohit had two batting net sessions at the All Heart Cricket Academy. The 38-year-old Rohit last played for India in the Champions Trophy final against New Zealand in February this year, leading the team to their second consecutive ICC title after the T20 World Cup win in the Americas in 2024. With his future under constant scrutiny, Rohit was named in the squad for the Australia ODI series along with longtime colleague Virat Kohli. —*PTI*

THOMAS TUCHEL
PHOTO: PTI

Disappointed with 'silent support' of England fans

LONDON, 10 OCT

England coach Thomas Tuchel expressed his disappointment with the national team's fans for their "silent" support at Wembley Stadium in the 3-0 win over Wales in a friendly on Thursday.

All of England's goals came in the first 20 minutes through Morgan Rogers, Ollie Watkins, and Bukayo Saka, and Tuchel's team failed to build on its strong start.

The German-born coach believed that the home crowd could have done more.

"We couldn't score the fourth one or the fifth one; the stadium was silent. Silent," Tuchel said.

"We never got any energy back from the fans, and I think the players delivered a lot to get more from the stands."

Asked if he was expecting more from England's fans, Tuchel, known for his straight-talking, said: "Yes. What more can you give than 20 minutes, three goals, and the way we attacked Wales?

"If you then hear for half an hour just the Wales fans, it's a bit sad because I think the team deserved big support today." —*PTI*

Clutch Chess: Kasparov stretches lead over Anand

ST. LOUIS, 10 OCT

Indian ace Viswanathan Anand let slip some crucial chances against old nemesis Garry Kasparov as the Russian great stretched his lead to five points with two wins and as many draws on the penultimate day of their much-hyped showdown in the Clutch Chess Legends here.

Kasparov was lucky to clinch the first game as disaster struck Anand at a close-to-winning position when the Indian ran out of time after "forgetting" to keep an eye on the clock.

In one of the two blitz games of the day, Kasparov again won the first game to lead 8.5-3.5 going into the final day of the USD 144,000 prize money event.

With four games still to come in the 12-game match, it is still not over for Anand because of the newly introduced format. On the last day, each victory will be worth three points for the winner, while a draw will be worth 1.5 points. —*PTI*

Ranji Trophy: Shardul to lead, Sarfaraz included

MUMBAI, 10 OCT

India all-rounder Shardul Thakur was appointed captain of Mumbai on Friday. At the same time, Sarfaraz Khan and Ajinkya Rahane were also included in its 16-member squad for their Ranji Trophy 2025-26 season opener against Jammu and Kashmir.

Thakur succeeds Rahane as Mumbai skipper after the former left his role ahead of the new season.

The 42-time champion Mumbai will take on Jammu and Kashmir in its first match of the Ranji season at Srinagar's Sher-I-Kashmir Stadium from October 15.

Mumbai, which had lost to J&K in the previous season by five wickets, is placed in Elite Group D along with Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Hyderabad, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, and Pondicherry. The squad includes India batter Sarfaraz, who has been out of national reckoning from the Test side, as well as all-rounder Shivam Dube. —*PTI*

NADINE DE KLERK
PHOTO: PTI

Plan was to take down Indian pacers: Nadine

VISAKHAPATNAM, 10 OCT

After marshaling a tough chase with a brilliant unbeaten 84, Nadine de Klerk attributed South Africa's three-wicket win over India in the Women's World Cup to the clever targeting of Indian pacers in the final 10 overs on a spin-friendly surface.

Chasing 252, South Africa were 211 for seven after 46 overs, and De Klerk was batting on 45 off 39 balls after safely negotiating spinners Sneh Rana, Sree Charani, and Deepti Sharma.

Needing 41 off 24 balls, De Klerk pounced on the pace-on deliveries of Kranti Gaud in the 47th over, smashing her for two sixes and a four in succession to bring down the target to 23 runs off 18 balls.

"I think seam was much easier on this wicket (to score off). I think their spinners bowled really well in that middle phase, and we knew they're going to have to bowl seamers, and that was going to be the much easier option to take on. We just played smart cricket," said De Klerk in the post-match press conference. —*PTI*

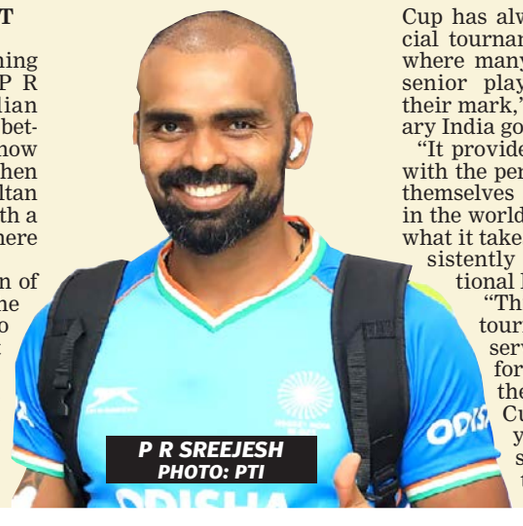
SULTAN OF JOHOR CUP

India eyes a strong show at Junior World Cup

JOHOR BAHRU, 10 OCT

With an eye on the upcoming Junior World Cup, the P R Sreejesh-coached Indian hockey team will hope to better the bronze-winning show of the previous edition when it takes the field in the Sultan of Johor Cup, starting with a clash against England here on Saturday.

Sreejesh feels the Sultan of Johor Cup will provide the colts the "perfect stage" to test their skills against the best ahead of the global event to be held in Chennai and Madurai from November 28, featuring 24 teams.



P R SREEJESH
PHOTO: PTI

"The Sultan of Johor Cup has always been a special tournament for us it's where many of our current senior players first made their mark," said the legendary India goalkeeper.

"It provides young players with the perfect stage to test themselves against the best in the world and understand what it takes to perform consistently at the international level," he added.

"This (Sultan Johor) tournament will also serve as a great platform to prepare for the Junior World Cup later this year. Facing strong teams in this tournament will give the players valuable experience and a real feel of top-level competition," he further stated. Elaborating on the team's strategy, the two-time Olympic bronze-winner said creativity, discipline, and aggression would be the focus areas of the side as it prepares for the Junior World Cup.

Following their encounter against Great Britain, India will play New Zealand (12 October), Pakistan (14 October), Australia (15 October), and host Malaysia (17 October).

The top two teams at the end of the round-robin stage will battle for the title on 18 October. —*PTI*